

## **The Need for Suffering III**

### **By Greg Rangel**

A few years ago having recently arrived from California on a summer vacation to San Antonio, my family and I were eating breakfast in a local Mexican restaurant when all of a sudden a waiter stopped in front of me with his jaw open in amazement. As I focused on his face I immediately recognized him as he did me. We spoke for a while and caught up on many things. He had already heard that I was a pastor. I had not known that he and his family were Christians.

Later on that week my family and I visited his home in which we had a great time with his family. But unfortunately though I noticed that they had a different form of Christianity because whenever they spoke about “Christianity” they believed that God wanted them not only to be rich and successful, but also sick free. They would say things such as, “all you have to do is confess that you are not sick and the sickness will flee from you immediately.” But unfortunately for them, and for all the rest that believe such non-sense, they have swallowed the lies of the devil by accepting a false gospel. The truth of the matter is that sicknesses, pain, tribulations, heartaches are part of our life because of the fact that we live in a fallen world. Our bodies are subject to the second law of thermodynamics which says that everything new becomes old and starts to wear and tear, including our bodies. Why do you think that we are getting old day by day, even though you don’t want to “confess” that you are getting old when in reality you are. Please don’t misunderstand me. I am not saying that God cannot and will not heal us. He can do whatever He pleases, as He does. What I am saying is that God many times will choose not heal us because He has a purpose in our pain and suffering (Romans 8:28). And unfortunately for those who believe the contrary, this is biblical.

Let us remember that Paul said in 2 Corinthians 4:17 that “...our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory;” Luke wrote in Acts 14:22 “...and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.” Let us not forget what Jesus said in John 16:33, “These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.”

Another thing I noticed with my friends was the fact that they got sick often and went through much financial turmoil. When the tough got going, they were not tough enough to keep going and to keep walking faithfully with Christ.

If their Word of Faith Gospel was so true, then why did they go through such devastating times, as many others like them do as well? Oh please don’t say that they did not have enough faith. That is nothing but a cop out to cover the lies of the Word of Faith. That sounds much like the Emperor who believed that he had fine clothing on and only the wise could see it when in reality he has naked. The rest of the people would confess that they too saw the fine clothing on him only because they did not want to be fools. The Word of Faith movement works much in the same way.

The many “positive” topics that they heard from their Word of Faith pastor did not give them strength to hang on when reality kicked in. And that is an unfortunate thing all the way around because there are many like my friends that attend seeker friendly churches to hear a seeker friendly gospel message that have nothing to do with the truth of the Word of God.

My intentions with this article are not to address the many false teachings of the Word of Faith movement. That will come in future articles. I mention them only because of the fact that they are causing much spiritual harm to the many folks that follow them because they fail to teach them the truth of the Word of God when it comes to the tribulations and sufferings that we will endure in this world.

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