

(5) learning humility and understanding of others

e. Some further Biblical materials for thought:

- (1) Israel's suffering in Egypt
- (2) The Babylonian captivity
- (3) The early church (Acts 1-12)

f. It is not our intention to develop a philosophy of suffering that will cover all points. But it is apparent that suffering is one of the great disciplines of life and the best general concept is stated by Peter in 1 Peter 4:19

6. Personal Frustration

a. By definition: This discipline is influenced by personality and behavior. Whether the frustration is providentially designed or a common life occurrence is not always easy to say. But whatever the source, it is used of God to train us and it occurs most frequently in the use of our wills to encourage others. We want to see them change and grow and it does not happen as we wish it would! Personal frustration sets in with a bang! Galatians 3 shows how it figures into the ministry of Paul...and there is some indication of a similar training for him in Philippians 4.

b. The character of this frustration:

- (1) People are swayed from the truth: Galatians 3...people who should know better but don't think!
- (2) Some balk at concepts of grace 2 Timothy 2:17-18
4:14
- (3) Some are slow or rebellious at the idea of spiritual growth: 2 Corinthians 13
- (4) Some refuse to serve in humility and integrity
2 John: Diotrephes
- (5) Those who mistake the blessings of grace for indulgence in life: the carnal minded: 1 Corinthians 3 and you will think of many others...enough to make one's hair fall out---if it has not gone already..

c. But think of God's patient dealing with us:

- (1) Psalm 107
- (2) 1 Corinthians 6
- (3) 1 Peter 4