

- d. 2 Corinthians 1:6 ff....
3. All suffering is instructive, however, in these lines:
    - a. Hebrews 12:1-11..not punishment, but training
    - b. 2 Corinthians 4:7-18...and they direct our views to the eternal aspects
    - c. 2 Cor. 1:9...and they enable us to help and encourage others in a way that we could not do otherwise.
    - d. Romans 8:18, 28...and the condition us to think of the perfection of God's will and glory.
  4. Finally, no trial is ultimately overwhelming
    - a. 1 Corinthians 10:13
    - b. James 1:1-12
- D. Conclusion:
1. What then is our lot in suffering?
    - a. not simply our own ease
    - b. but to learn to glorify God (1 Peter 4:19)
    - c. and to show his presence in our lives (1 Peter 2:12)
  2. Should we, then, ask for healing?
    - a. Yes...if we are sure that such a work will more fully honor him and achieve his purposes.
    - b. No...if only self is being served (not always easy to know)
    - c. Yes....if we can couple it with his will and work
    - d. No...if we simply fear the inevitable.
    - e. And in many cases one cannot make a positive assertion but always does well committing himself to the will of God
  3. Can we demand physical deliverance?
    - a. It is not promised, although care is promised (1 Peter 5)
    - b. It is only temporary at best and an act of grace in particular... and these acts are generally beyond demand.
    - c. But we can expect God to honor his Word.
  4. How shall we react to healing claims?
    - a. Frankly, thankfully, if someone is honestly helped.
    - b. Carefully, to the claims of hearers.
    - c. Prayerfully teaching all what to expect in life..
    - d. And attempting to teach how life should be lived and its circumstances used.
  5. Finally remember that the Spirit dwells with us to teach us of Christ and his Word. He leads, directs, and energizes. But he is not, and must not be represented as, some sort of spiritual "good luck charm" and we must make our representation of salvation for what it really is...not some magical thing the world thinks it needs.