

How to Gratefully Endure Suffering

Acts 7:54-60, Philippians 1:29

⁵⁵ But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God.

Acts 7:55

⁶⁴ “You have said so,” Jesus replied. “But I say to all of you: From now on **you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One** and coming on the clouds of heaven.”

Matthew 26:64

⁵⁶ “**Look,**” he said, “I see heaven open and the **Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.**”

Acts 7:56

⁴⁶ Jesus called out with a loud voice, “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.” When he had said this, he breathed his last.

Luke 23:46

⁵⁹ While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.”

Acts 7:59

³⁴ Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.” And they divided up his clothes by casting lots.

Luke 23:34

Why Does God Allow Suffering of
Christ- followers?

Helen Roseveare (Sept. 21, 1925 –Dec. 2016)



⁷ But this precious treasure—this light and power that now shine within us—is held in a perishable container, that is, in our weak bodies. Everyone can see that the glorious power within must be from God and is not our own.

⁸ We are pressed on every side by troubles, but not crushed and broken. We are perplexed because we don't know why things happen as they do, but we don't give up and quit. ⁹ We are hunted down, but God never abandons us. We get knocked down, but we get up again and keep going. ¹⁰ These bodies of ours are constantly facing death just as Jesus did; so it is clear to all that it is only the living Christ within who keeps us safe.

2 Corinthians 4:7-10 (NLT)

God's Work cannot be known in each
given moments

¹⁷ “When I returned to Jerusalem and was praying at the temple, I fell into a trance ¹⁸ and saw the Lord speaking to me. ‘Quick!’ he said. ‘Leave Jerusalem immediately, because the people here will not accept your testimony about me.’

¹⁹ “‘Lord,’ I replied, ‘these people know that I went from one synagogue to another to imprison and beat those who believe in you. ²⁰ And when the blood of your martyr Stephen was shed, I stood there giving my approval and guarding the clothes of those who were killing him.’

²¹ “Then the Lord said to me, ‘Go; I will send you far away to the Gentiles.’ ”

Acts 22:17-21

Concluding Remark

- Let us remain grateful even through suffering because of our hope in Jesus
- Let each of us be the church to preach the gospel to our world in words or deeds particularly during this difficult time