

# What Does God Say About Suffering?

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*Acts Series, "Completely Irreligious, Yet Radically Christian", Part 13*

**Acts 7:54-8:4**

*Consider it a great joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you experience various trials, because you know that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its full effect, so that you may be mature and complete, lacking nothing. James 1:2-4 (CSB)*

## **FIVE PRINCIPLES: WHEN TIMES ARE TOUGH!**

**Principle #1: Injustice and Innocent Suffering are a result of \_\_\_\_\_, and no one is immune.**  
*When they heard these things, they were enraged and gnashed their teeth at him. Acts 7:54 (CSB)*

**Principle #2: Our Present Suffering Is \_\_\_\_\_, Compared To His \_\_\_\_\_.**  
*Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven. He saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. Acts 7:55 (CSB)*

**We too will one day share in \_\_\_\_\_!**  
*and if children, also heirs—heirs of God and coheirs with Christ—if indeed we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.<sup>18</sup> For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is going to be revealed to us. Romans 8:17-18 (CSB)*

**Principle #3: God never leaves us no matter what is happening around us.**  
*For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 8:38-39*

**Principle #4: Suffering Changes Us - for the \_\_\_\_\_ or the \_\_\_\_\_.**  
*And not only that, but we also boast in our afflictions, because we know that affliction produces endurance, endurance produces proven character, and proven character produces hope. This hope will not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured out in our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us. Romans 5: 3-5*

**Principle #5: God Works Suffering For \_\_\_\_\_.**  
*So those who were scattered went on their way preaching the word. Acts 8:4*