

## *Success Thru Sacrifice & Suffering!*

There's a serious flaw in the thinking of almost all Christians. This flaw leads most Christians to give up their pursuit of God.

Every new Christian wants to seek after God, to love Him, and to walk with Him in sweet communion and fellowship.

It's not long before most become discouraged and give up.

There are doubtless many reasons.

They don't count on the extent of their continuing desire to please themselves and displease God.

They know little or nothing about the awesome battle Satan and His hordes engage them in.

They don't know the power of the indwelling, enabling Spirit of God, and of Christ within.

They don't spend sufficient time seeking the Lord in prayer and the Word.

And more . . .

They just don't realize the battle they're in!

Here's the flaw. Let's get it straight, the Christian life is no picnic.

It's a battle from day one until we're finally at home with our Savior and our God in a perfect heaven where there'll be no more pain or sorrow, no more tears, just unmitigated joy and eternal bliss.

First, this sinful world is a place of pain.

"The whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain." - Romans 8:22

Second, God uses pain to purify us. It is a required subject in God's school house.

"Our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory." - II Corinthians 4:17

Third, to live pleasing Him, we must deny ourselves, take up our cross, and follow Jesus. This is a constant dying to ourselves, our will, and our ways, we find it most objectionable.

"He that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple." - Luke 14:33

To put it plainly, if we aren't willing to suffer with God gladly, we'll not reign with Him, now or forever.



I know whereof I speak. I care for my wife night and day. She's had Parkinson's Disease for over 30 years. Basically she can't walk, talk, think, or eat well. I've aged 20 years in the past 10.

I teach trusting, resting, and rejoicing in Jesus. I teach worshiping, praising, and seeking God, and taking authority over Satan as means to those ends. But often, confronting the pressures of life, all I can do is ask for His help, submit rather than rebel, and say, "its o.k., Lord." "It's o.k..."

And, you can believe, I look forward to heaven with joyous anticipation...

"The sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. . . . We are more than conquerors through Him that loved us.

-Selected from Romans 8:18-37