

UNDESERVED SUFFERING

Last week I mentioned counseling a young woman in her 30's who was battling a weigh problem. I asked her how long she had been battling this weigh problem. As we began discussing it, she recalled a specific period of traumatic experiences. When she became agitated and emotional, I moved to another question. I ask her to be absolutely honest with this question –“why did she keep her weigh?” (I wanted to get to the core of her belief regarding this problem.) She acknowledged that she kept her weigh to avoid certain boys and men. Even though I thought I knew the answer to the cause of her trauma, I wanted to explore and tag her core belief and not just her trauma.

So often people suppress the real problem and are defensive about their core belief because it is their safety net of sanity. As a result, we sometimes tend to deal with the surface problems rather than false core beliefs of the Old Man Cosmic Diabolicus (OMCD) thinking.

I told her the Lord would absolutely help her win over her weigh problem. But I needed to teach her the following four problem-solving devices.

- Spirituality – Gal.5:16-17
- The Faith cycle – 2 Cor.5:7
- Undeserved suffering – Phil.1:27-30
- Victory over adversities of life – Gen.50:19-21

I reassured her that as a Christian she doesn't have to live a defeated Christian Way of Life (CWL) (1 John 5:4).

She is one among many that I refer to as the WALKING WOUNDED of the Church.

Recently, I taught you the Doctrines of Spirituality and the Faith cycle.

Today, I will teach you five aspects of Undeserved Suffering

So that you may be able to minister to those Walking Wounded of the Church.

1. Undeserved suffering is 1 of 3 categories of suffering in the Christian way of life (CWL)

SIM (self-induced misery) – Prov.14: 30 MAS; Prov.27: 4 psychosomatic illness; Matt.6: 25-34 anxiety-stress; 1 Pet.4: 4:3-4 fast crowd; Gal.6: 7-8 sowing and reaping.

D/D (divine discipline) – Heb.12: 5-11; 1 Cor.11: 28-32.

U/S (undeserved suffering) – 1 Pet.2: 19-20; 3:16-17; Col.1: 24 (adikos pascho) undeserved or unjust suffering. (agathopoieo pascho) suffering for doing good.

Which of these three sufferings do you think the woman I mentioned in the introduction is suffering?

2. All suffering is intended to focus attention upon the believer's relationship with the Lord (Job and Joseph – James 5:11; Gen.50: 19-20; Psalms 119: 67-71).

“Behold, we count those blessed who endured. You have heard of the endurance of Job and have seen the outcome of the Lord's dealings, that the Lord is full of compassion and is merciful.” (James 5:11)

Jesus set the standard for U/S in CWL (1 Pet.2: 21-25; Heb.5: 8). “But if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not feel ashamed, but in that name let him glorify God.” (1 Pet.4:16)

3. Undeserved suffering is a normal part of the spiritual mature believer's identity with Christ in the Devil's world (2 Tim.3: 12).

"For to you it has been granted for Christ's sake, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer *for His sake*." (Phil.1: 19) (2 Cor.1: 5; Phil.3: 10)

"But even if you should suffer *for the sake of righteousness*, you are blessed." (1 Pet.3:14)

"And if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we *suffer with Him* in order that we may *also be glorified with Him*." (Rom.8:17) (Acts 9:5)

4. Undeserved suffering is an extension of the angelic conflict in the life of the spiritual advancing believer (1 Pet.5: 6-10).

"And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you." (1 Pet.5:10)

5. The crown of life will be awarded in at the judgment seat of Christ to those believers who are faithful under undeserved suffering.

Church of Smyrna – "Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to cast some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life." (Rev.2:10)

"Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life, which the Lord has promised to those who love Him." (James 1:12)