

Notes: The Faith To Suffer

Hebrews 11

³⁵ Women received back their dead, raised to life again. There were others who were tortured, refusing to be released so that they might gain an even better resurrection. ³⁶ Some faced jeers and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. ³⁷ They were put to death by stoning;^[e] they were sawed in two; they were killed by the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, persecuted and mistreated— ³⁸ the world was not worthy of them. They wandered in deserts and mountains, living in caves and in holes in the ground.

³⁹ These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised, ⁴⁰ since God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect.

1 Peter 4

⁴ Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves with the same way of thinking, for whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, ² so as to live for the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for human passions but for the will of God

¹² Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³ But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. ¹⁴ If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. ¹⁵ But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler.

1. Suffering Is Not a Side Doctrine — It Is Central to Christianity

Chan argues that suffering is everywhere in the New Testament, yet rarely preached in the modern church. He says we've made Christianity about comfort instead of crucifixion. The New Testament never promised a crossless Christianity."

2. American Christianity Has Normalized Comfort

Chan says many churches unintentionally teach people to avoid pain, difficulty, sacrifice, and rejection.

- Modern Christianity = convenience
- Biblical Christianity = costly discipleship

3. True Discipleship Means Carrying a Cross

"Everybody wants resurrection power, but nobody wants crucifixion pressure."

4. Suffering Reveals Whether Our Faith Is Real

"Real faith is not proven by what you escape.

Real faith is proven by what you endure without losing trust in God."

That line will hit.

Faith is not only believing God CAN.

Faith is trusting God even when He DOESN'T the way you wanted.

FAITH IS NOT A VENDING MACHINE

SOME OF GOD'S GREATEST PEOPLE SUFFERED DEEPLY

Suffering is not always evidence that God left you. Sometimes suffering is evidence that God trusts you.

That'll preach.

"The presence of pain does not mean the absence of God."

SOMETIMES GOD DOES HIS DEEPEST WORK IN DARK SEASONS

SUFFERING REVEALS WHAT WE REALLY BELIEVE

OUR SUFFERING IS NOT THE END OF THE STORY

"For the believer, pain has an expiration date."

"Some of the greatest heroes in Scripture were bleeding while believing."