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The Virtue of Suffering

Rom 8:17 — The Spirit is a personality. An *entity* isn't a personality. You can't be in love with an "it." Mt 28:18-20 — The name is the reality of a person. We are to suffer with Him to be glorified with Him. Rom 8:17 is written because Phil 1:29 is there. The two things we do is believe and suffer. It is to remind us that our spirit can only grow up into the head by obeying Him. The only way to grow up in Him is to suffer. If we only believe and not suffer, we can't share in His glory (and we may choose evil rather than affliction — Job 36:21). Our spirit can only grow when we are suffering and we are obeying Him. 1 Ths 5:23 speaks of our spirit, soul, and body all being redeemed.

The only way we can grow up to be like Him is by obeying Him when we are suffering. We can obey well enough when we have good feelings. This isn't much credit. When suffering while being pruned back it may seem like we are cut off, when in reality we are being pruned back (Jn 15:2). Our spirit surges during these times, not when we feel good, when we are warm and comforted. Most anyone can obey and be kind during these times, but not much credit comes to us during these times.

1 Pet 2:20 — Credit comes to us when we obey during our dark times, when we can't sense Him, thinking we are cut off or pruned, thinking He is far away, but we know inside that He isn't far away. The reason we will share His glory (Rom 8:17) is because during these hard times we grow into the stature of our Master, when we feel the pangs of what it must have felt like when our Master was on the cross. This was His darkest hour. He experienced the loneliness of death, the excruciating pain of death and hell. If we are to be like Him and our spirit to gain His glory, then we must obey in our suffering.

2 Ths 2:13-15 — It is through the Spirit that works in us to bring about the quality of the life of our Master. See 2 Tim 2:11-12 in the Weymouth translation. Col 1:24 — We have to suffer with Him because we have to make up for His suffering. What makes us have credit and get glory and share the throne is to obey while we are suffering. This is credit to us.

1 Pet 3:9 — When we are suffering is when it is easy to be harsh and short with our brother. This is where our credit is — when we are not that way. Col 1:18 — Every man must be complete in Messiah. We are completed by obedience. Our spirit grows when we are suffering. It is harder to be kind with your brother when you are suffering. 1 Pet 4:13 — Suffering is what makes our spirit grow into His image. Our spirit must be like His Spirit. Our spirit is the part of us that His Spirit unites with, 1 Cor 6:17. His Spirit is the one Spirit whom our spirit is joined to. Don't get suffering mixed up with being in the flesh.

Gal 5:22-23 — Is our spirit in communion with His Spirit? There isn't any credit to bypass our spirit. He came to redeem our spirit to make it like His Spirit and our soul like His soul, our body like His body until the day of redemption (Eph 4:30). 1 Pet 4:1 — We all do our share in His suffering — Col 1:24. We must suffer in the same way He suffered. We must know what it was like corporately. During this suffering we must remain obedient. We will know a little of what it felt like for Him to experience death when we are pruned for greater faithfulness. He may have thought the Father had forsaken Him forever. This is why He sweat blood because He had never experienced being cut off. But He knew the Father's faithfulness, though he felt He was far off. Actually, He was ever so near (like with the baby eagle).

We are pruned to bear greater fruit. We won't bear fruit if we complain when we are pruned. If you don't bear fruit you are cut off, not able to stay. If you bear fruit, it proves you are a son. We

feel cut off, no feelings during these times — we must love and be patient. Keep on, keep on, maintain battle stations (1 Pet 5:10).

Rom 8:17 is how to get His glory. During suffering we know we are a child because of Heb 12:7-9 — through discipline. When we have suffered for a little while He will come and confirm us. In our deepest suffering and the point of despair, we are to do good. We are to maintain the same love for the brothers we had when we were doing good. We are called to do it. Are we willing to do it? When we are suffering we are to continue to exhibit the fruit of the Spirit, being patient and kind. It is hardest to be patient when you don't feel like it. It is hardest to be kind when you are suffering. It is easiest to have self-control when your belly is full. Our spirit has a growth spurt when we suffer. We want to be like Him.

Our spirit surges with our Master when we suffer and we continue to obey and be kind to our brothers. He did the best good when He died and went to hell and preached. He released the captives. In His deepest hour of despair He opened His mouth and preached. He didn't go into despair because He had hope. 1 Pet 3:19 and Eph 4:8-10 — In His deepest, darkest hour He delivered people. Those people had the hope that the seed would come and deliver them. They didn't go into depression and despair that He wouldn't come.

Heb 2:14 — He had to die so through death He would render powerless the enemy when he comes to us when we are suffering. This checks our spirit out to see what we are made of, whether we are worthy for the Kingdom. This is what a growth spurt is. Mt 24:13 — enduring till the end. He had to go to death to deliver. Satan can't take us there now. If we go it is because we don't want to suffer with Him.

Rev 3:20-21 — We can dine with Him in our deepest despair. You can't eat from two tables.

You *can* switch tables, but you *can* stay at His table. *We* leave Him, He is there. Eph 4:8-10 — He led a whole host out of there. He opened His mouth and preached. We too have opportunity to not only believe but to suffer with Him, only in suffering which all must go through and endure. Sons don't get out of suffering. Rev 3:19 — He disciplines those whom He loves.

Heb 12:8-9 — Regardless, we will be disciplined. If you won't endure it now, there is another age. We can take our discipline willingly now or we will have to take it for 1,000 years. 1 Pet 5:10 — It is for His glory to suffer for a little while. He wants us to rule with Him in another age. Only in our suffering, which we must all endure, can our spirit grow up in our Master Yahshua. Heb 12:8-9; 1 Pet 2:20-21; Jn 8:31 — We won't go through something without a way out. The way opens up, and wisdom comes to us (1 Cor 10:13). It is a promise of the New Covenant. We must continue in His word because we are His disciples. Satan isn't thrown into the Lake of Fire now, he must stay around so we can prove that Yahshua defeated the enemy, producing the proper results.