

[“That I May Know Him,](#) and the Power of His Resurrection, and the fellowship of His Suffering, being made conformable unto His Death.”
Philippians 3:10no3 KJV

Without suffering there is no joy. It is the valleys which make the mountaintop. If we would truly know God, we must have fellowship, common interest or like passions with Him. If I would know His Power, I must experience His suffering, so I may Joy and Rejoice with Him in His Glory! God has put us here in this vale of sorrow that our Joy may be full at His return. Peter writes, *“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to His Abundant Mercy hath begotten us again unto a Lively Hope by the Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an Inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in Heaven for you, Who are kept by the Power of God through Faith unto Salvation ready to be revealed in the Last Time. Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: That the trial of your Faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ: Whom having not seen, ye love; in Whom, though now ye see Him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with Joy unspeakable and full of Glory: Receiving the end of your Faith, even the salvation of your souls. Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when His Glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding Joy.”* All through Scripture we find the suffering of the faithful. *“Yea, and all that will live Godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.”* Faith is strange to the unbeliever for he depends on his physical senses and human reason to verify his beliefs. *“The natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. For the preaching of the Cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the Power of God.”* Ask yourself, “Why do I believe God?” What is the answer? Faith! God gave you the faith to believe when you heard His Word. *“Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God. For by Grace are ye saved through Faith; and that NOT of yourselves: it is the GIFT of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are His Workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.”* True believers are strangers to the world!



To know my God, look on His Face,
Is only found by matchless Grace,
And when I rise to worlds unknown,
I'll see Him on His gracious Throne! –CGP

If you would know God's Power, you must also know His suffering. A blind man appreciates sight more than the sighted, because he knows the suffering of sightlessness. You don't appreciate breathing until you're drowning!

“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies A LIVING SACRIFICE, Holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, Will of God.” Romans 12:1-2 KJV