

## Understanding Suffering & the Love of God

**Text:** John 11:1-6

**Main Idea:** When we don't understand our suffering, we must never forget that Jesus loves us and is working in His timing for our good and His glory!

- 1. Understand God's Design:** Don't be \_\_\_\_\_ when the Lord allows those He loves to suffer. (v. 1-3)
  - Suffering is \_\_\_\_\_. (Jam 1:2, 2 Cor 4:8-9)
  - Suffering is not due to a lack of \_\_\_\_\_ on God's part!
  - Suffering is not due to a lack of \_\_\_\_\_ on our part!
  - Suffering is rather a part of the \_\_\_\_\_ plan of God for all believers! (v. 6, 1 Pet 4:12-19, Acts 14:22, Phil 1:29)
- 2. Trust God's Purpose:** While we may not always \_\_\_\_\_ fully, recognize that the Lord has purpose in our suffering. (v. 4, 16)
  - *For God:* For the display of the \_\_\_\_\_ of God. (v. 4)
  - *For Ourselves:* For the \_\_\_\_\_ & sanctification of His people. (16, Job 2:9-10, Mark 4:16-19)
  - *For Others:* To equip us for ministry to \_\_\_\_\_ others! (2 Cor 1:4, Gal 6:2)
- 3. Seek God's Care:** The first place we ought to run in our suffering is to take our troubles to Jesus in \_\_\_\_\_ *for He cares for us!* (v. 3, 1 Peter 5:7)
  - Pray according to God's \_\_\_\_\_. (1 Jn 5:14-15)
  - Pray \_\_\_\_\_ in your heart. (Mark 11:24)
  - Pray being ready to \_\_\_\_\_ God. (1 Jn 2:4-5)
  - Pray with \_\_\_\_\_ and humility. (Ps 112:1)
  - Pray fervently & \_\_\_\_\_. (Ps 62:8, James 1:3-4)
- 4. Never Doubt God's Love:** Guard against becoming angry at God and continually remind yourself of His \_\_\_\_\_ love toward you! (v. 5, Ps 136, Rom 8:37-39)
- 5. Remember God's Timing:** Be ready to \_\_\_\_\_ on the Lord for His ways are not our ways, knowing that He works all things for our good! (v. 6, Rom 8:28)