



1 Corinthians 6:11

"And such were some of you...  
BUT you were washed...  
In the name of the Lord,  
Jesus Christ."

**Family Devotion #17**

For the Week of December 10, 2017

Beloved,

Our message Sunday was on Romans 5:1-5. Particular emphasis was placed on the subject of tribulations in the believer's life. The text clearly demonstrates that God is at work in the life of a Christian through these trials. In Malachi 3:3 God spoke of Himself as a refiner. Some of the purpose of this refining is to bring about purity and godliness in the believer. As one goes through the trial his or her perseverance is strengthened and proven character is produced.

Take time to read through the book of I Peter this week with your family. The theme of Christian suffering runs throughout the entire book. Pay special attention to 1:6-9 and 4:12-19.

Searching out the Scriptures regarding suffering one finds that there is no necessary connection between sin and suffering in the believer's life. Sin in the believer's life can be the cause of suffering, however, often the suffering is for God's glory.

In the life of Joseph there was much suffering but God had a purpose for allowing him to suffer. Genesis 50:19-20 says, *But Joseph said to them, Do not be afraid, for am I in God's place? As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result, to preserve many people alive.* (NASB)

In Romans 5:3 believers are instructed to *exult* in tribulations. Study this word *exult* and come up with a working definition. Christians can trust God even in the midst of suffering. Philippians 1:29 says, *For to you it has been granted for Christ's sake, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake.* Meditate on Romans 8:28-39.