

Growing in Christ

January 14 - March 10

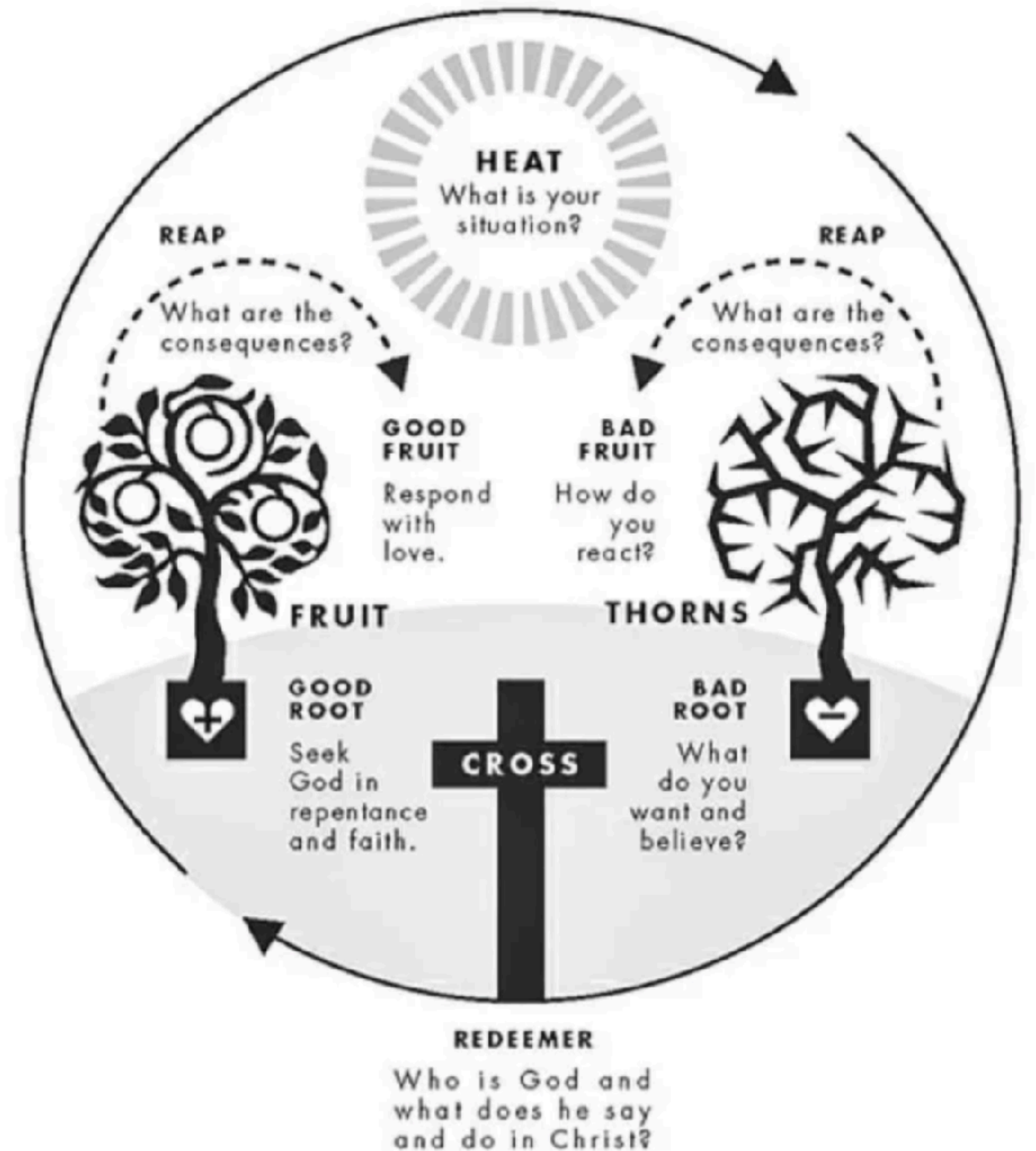


Session 1: Beholding & Becoming



Sessions 4 & 5

1. Heat
2. Thorns
3. Cross
4. Fruit





Session 6: Spiritual Disciplines



Session 6: Spiritual Disciplines



Spiritual Disciplines: Means of Grace

PSALMS 60.2—62.6

Lead me to the rock that is higher than I.
3 For thou hast been a refuge for me,
A strong tower from the enemy.
4 I will dwell in thy tabernacle for ever:
I will take refuge in the covert of thy wings. [Sē'lāh
5 For thou, O God, hast heard my vows:
Thou hast given me the heritage of those that fear thy name.
6 Thou wilt prolong the king's life;
His years shall be as many generations.
7 He shall abide before God for ever:
Oh prepare lovingkindness and truth, that they may preserve him.
8 So will I sing praise unto thy name for ever,
That I may daily perform my VOWS.

God alone a Refuge from Treachery and Oppression.

For the Chief Musician; after the manner of Jeduthun. A Psalm of David.

62 My soul waiteth in silence for God only:
From him cometh my salvation.
2 He only is my rock and my salvation:
He is my high tower; I shall not be greatly moved.
3 How long will ye set upon a man,
That ye may slay him, all of you,
Like a leaning wall, like a tottering fence?
4 They only consult to thrust him down from his dignity;
They delight in lies;
They bless with their mouth, but they curse inwardly.

[Sē'lāh
5 My soul, wait thou in silence

Meditation

- Example to follow?
- Command to obey?
- Error to avoid?
- Sin to forsake?
- Promise to claim?
- New thought about God?

PSALMS 60.2—62.6

Lead me to the rock that is higher than I.

3 For thou hast been a refuge for me,

A strong tower from the enemy.

4 I will dwell in thy tabernacle for ever:

I will take refuge in the covert of thy wings. [Sē'lāh

5 For thou, O God, hast heard my vows:

Thou hast given me the heritage of those that fear thy name.

6 Thou wilt prolong the king's life; His years shall be as many generations.

7 He shall abide before God for ever:

Oh prepare lovingkindness and truth, that they may preserve him.

8 So will I sing praise unto thy name for ever,

That I may daily perform my vows.

God alone a Refuge from Treachery and Oppression.

For the Chief Musician; after the manner of Jeduthun. A Psalm of David.

62 My soul waiteth in silence for God only:

From him cometh my salvation.

2 He only is my rock and my salvation:

He is my high tower; I shall not be greatly moved.

3 How long will ye set upon a man,

That ye may slay him, all of you,

Like a leaning wall, like a tottering fence?

4 They only consult to thrust him down from his dignity;

They delight in lies;

They bless with their mouth, but they curse inwardly.

[Sē'lāh

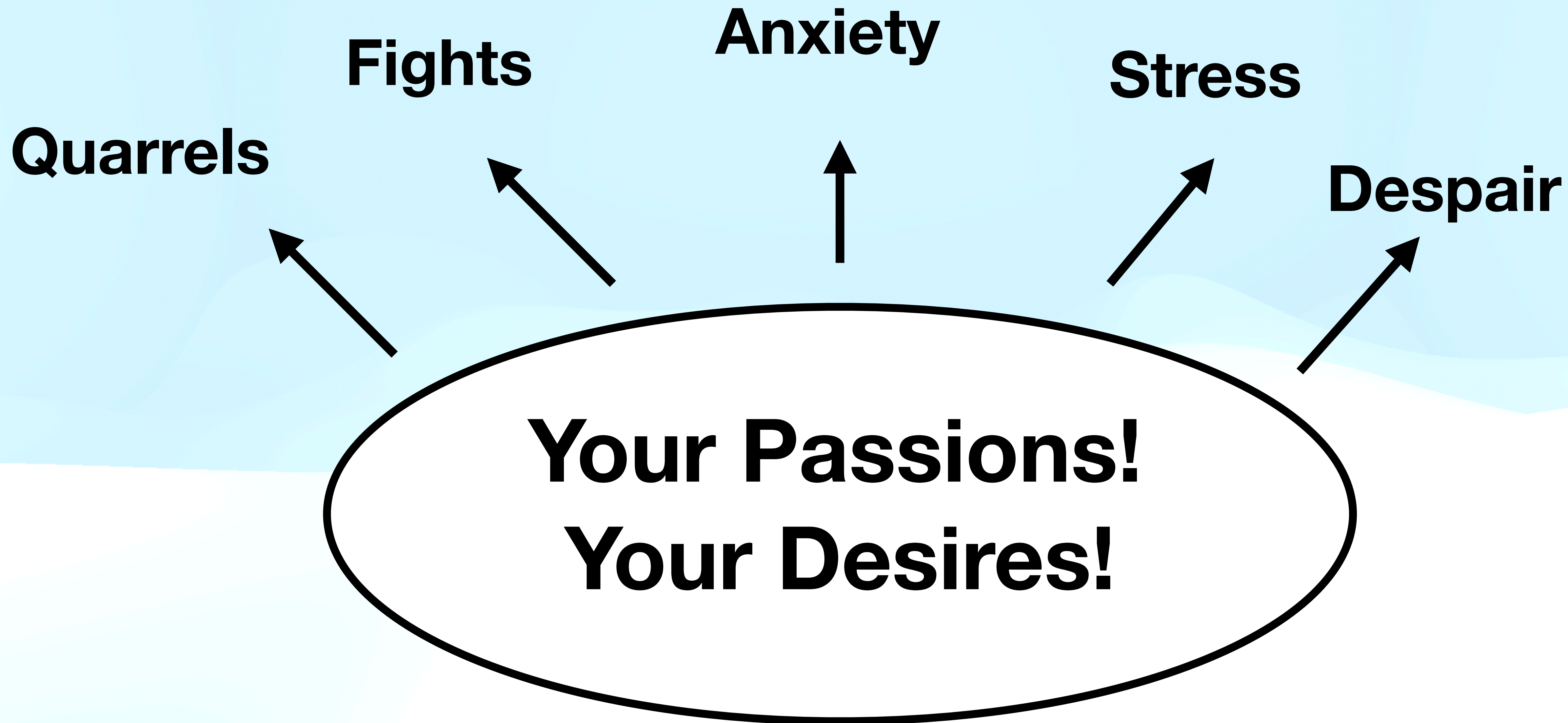
5 My soul, wait thou in silence

Meditation

- Am I living in light of this?
- What difference does this make?
- Am I taking this seriously?
- If I truly believed this, what would change?
- When I forget this, what happens?



Spiritual Disciplines: Means of Grace



James 4:1a



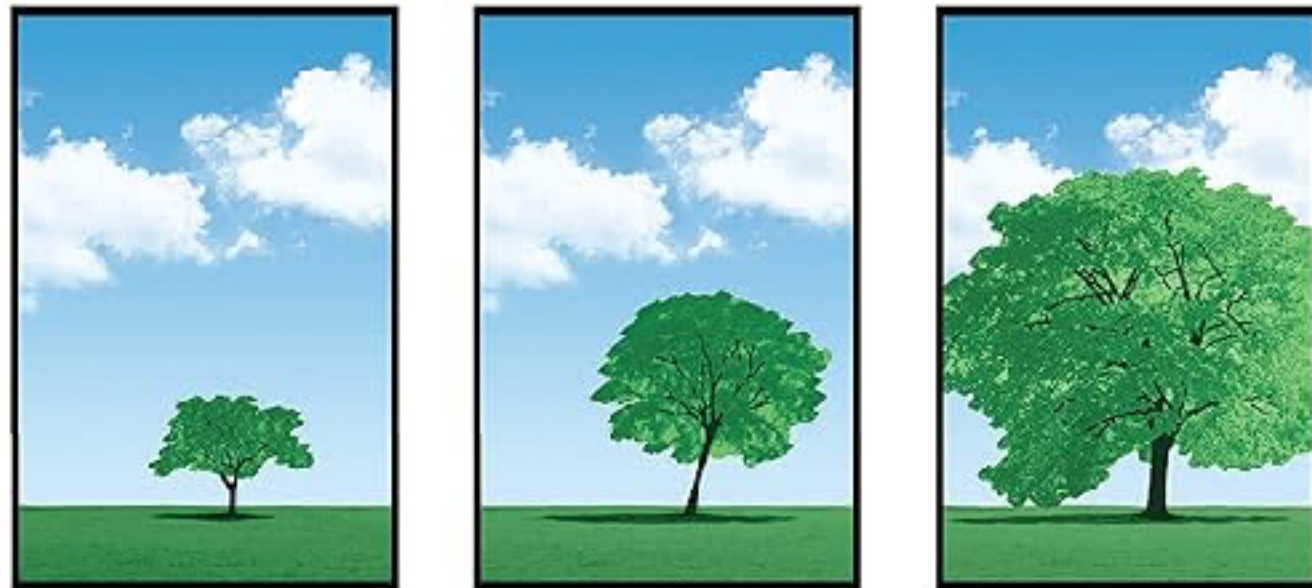
**New Identity &
New Potential**

“I have been *crucified with Christ*. It is *no longer I who live*, but *Christ who lives in me*. And the life I now live in the flesh I live *by faith in the Son of God*, who loved me and gave himself for me.”

Galatians 2:20



how people change



Timothy S. Lane | Paul David Tripp

Real World, Take One

Tripp, p. 180



EXIT 432
Market Rd
EXIT ↓ ONLY

OMAHU RD

EXIT 432
Market Rd
EXIT ONLY

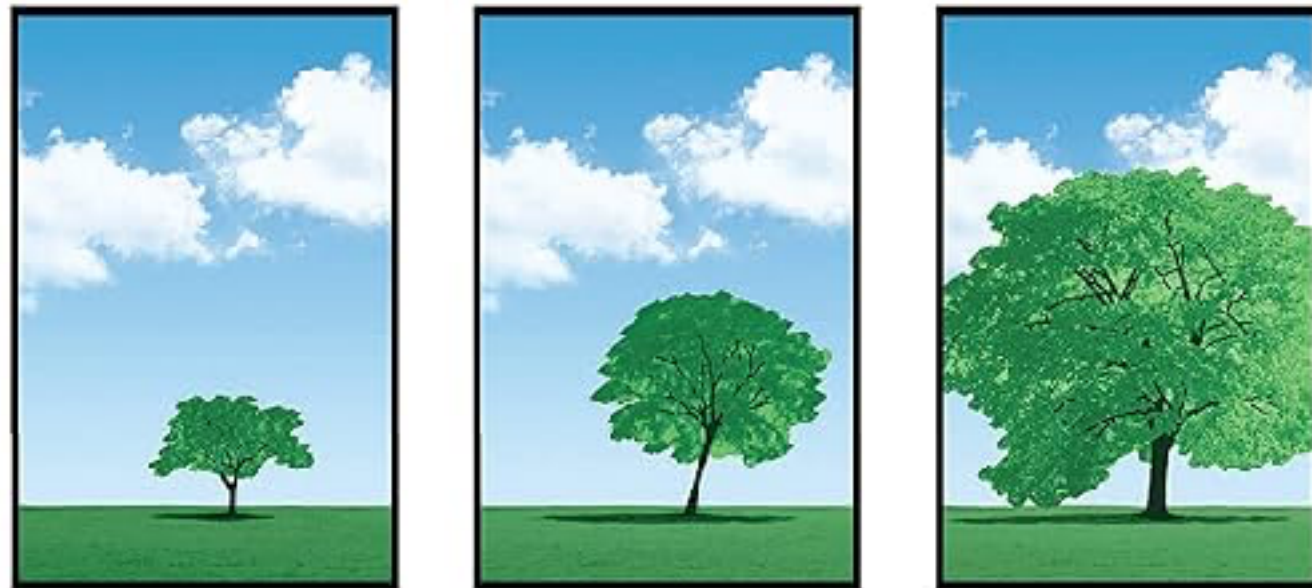
EXIT 430
Khyber
EXIT ↓

EXIT 430
Khyber
EXIT ↓





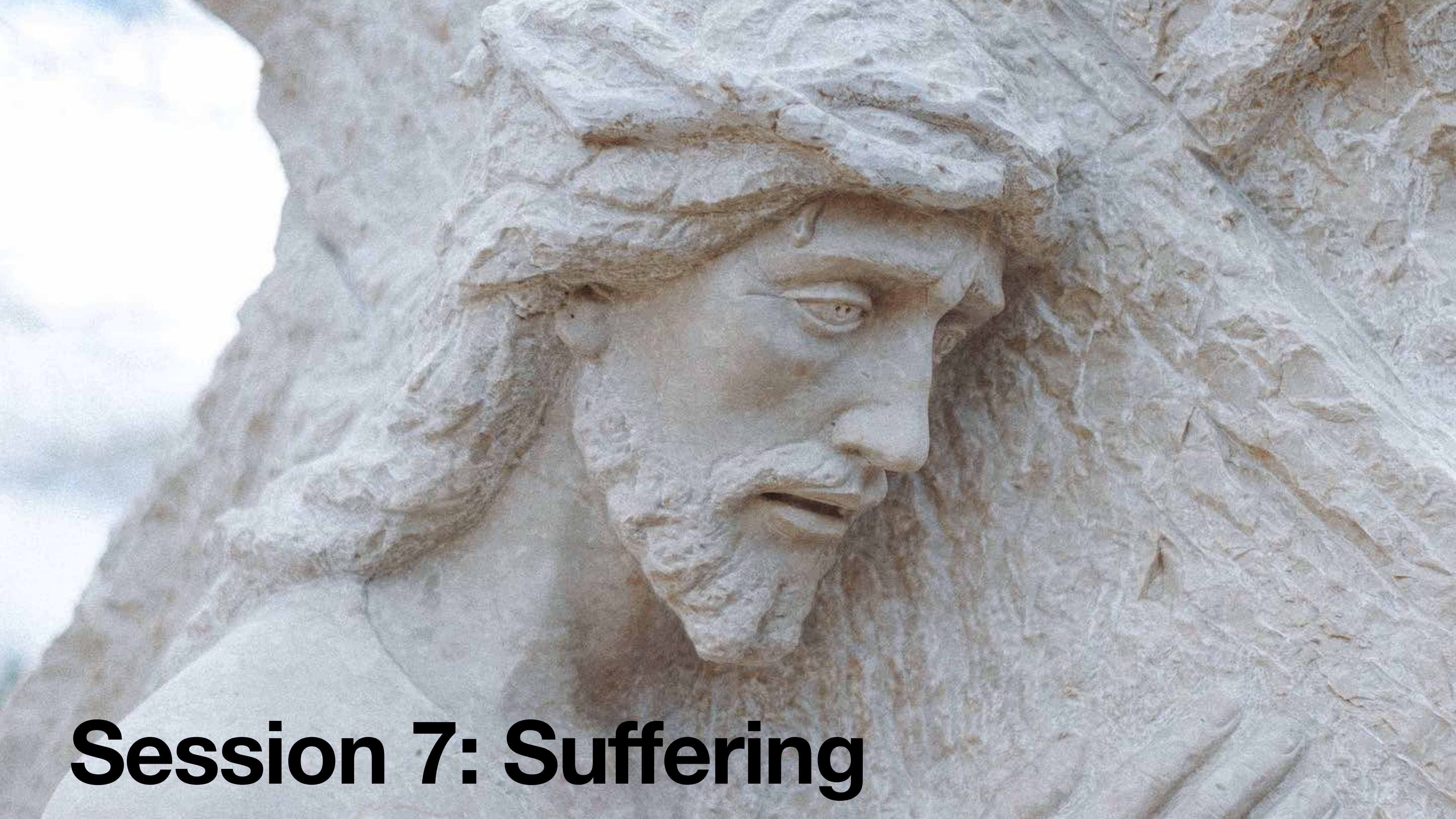
how people change



Timothy S. Lane | Paul David Tripp

Real World, Take Two

Tripp, p. 191



Session 7: Suffering

Philippians 1:29



“For it has been granted to you
that for the sake of Christ...”

Philippians 1:29





“For it has been granted to you
that for the sake of Christ you
should not only ***believe in him***...”

Philippians 1:29



“For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him **but also suffer for his sake...**”

Philippians 1:29





DO SOMETHING GREAT

1 Peter 2:21

“For *to this you have been called*, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps.”

1 Peter 2:21



I'M YOUR DENSITY.

1 Thes 3:3

“that no one be moved by these afflictions. For you yourselves know that ***we are destined for this.***”

1 Thes 3:3

1. God's Good Design for Suffering





**What are our
“natural” responses
to suffering?**

What are some supernatural responses to suffering?



“***Blessed are you*** when others revile you and persecute you... ***Rejoice and be glad***, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

Matthew 5:11-12

“Not only that, but ***we rejoice in our sufferings***, knowing that...”

Romans 5:3

**“*Count it all joy*, my brothers,
when you meet trials of various
kinds...”**

James 1:2

“But ***rejoice*** insofar as you share
Christ’s sufferings...”

1 Peter 4:13

“...and you ***joyfully accepted*** the plundering of your property, since you knew that you yourselves had a better possession and an abiding one...”

Hebrews 10:34

“Then they left the presence of the council, ***rejoicing*** that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name.”

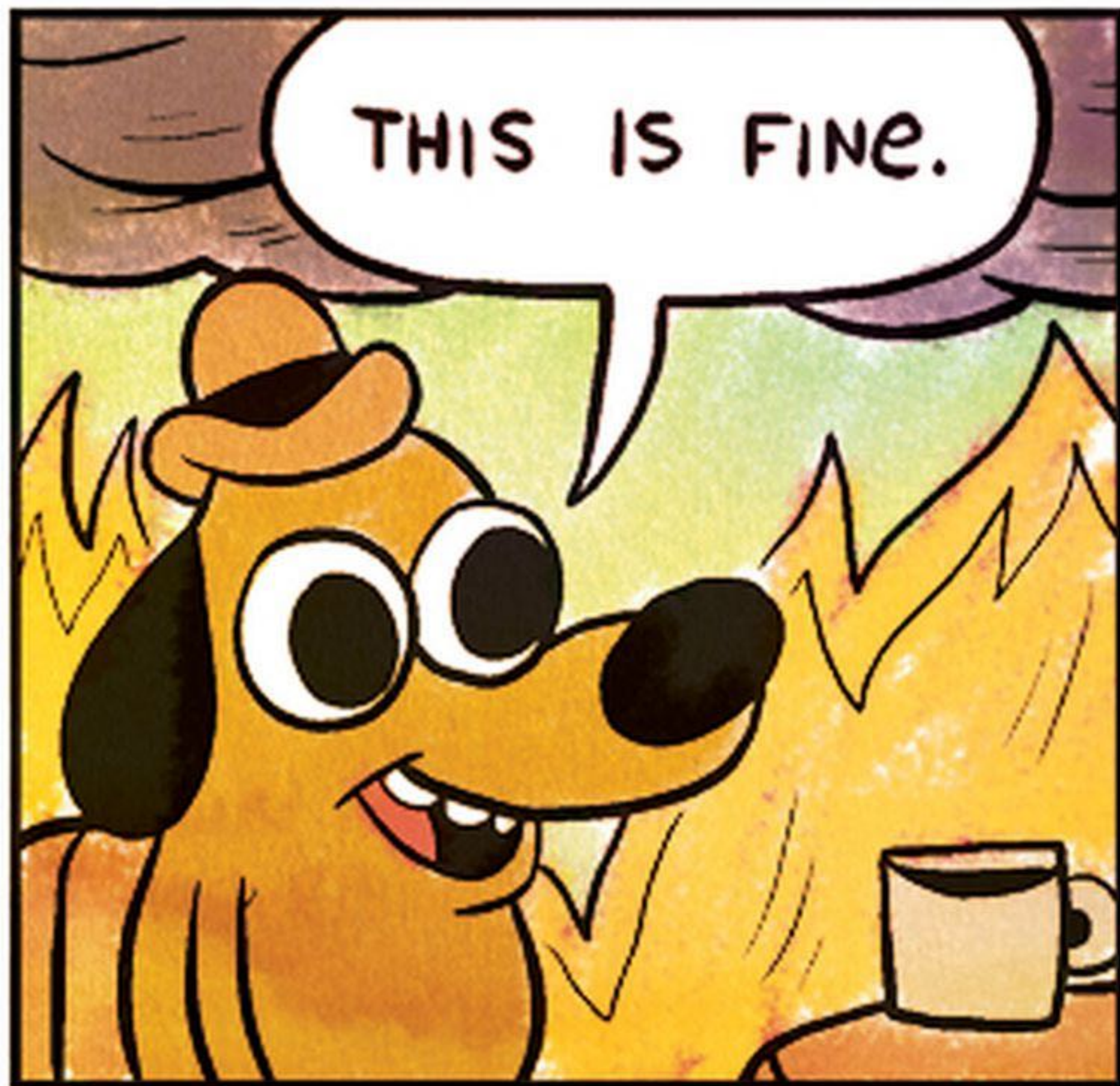
Acts 5:41











“People are not prepared or able to rejoice in suffering unless they experience *a massive biblical revolution of how they think and feel about the meaning of life.*

Human nature and American culture make it impossible to rejoice in suffering. This is a miracle in the human soul wrought by God through his Word.”

John Piper





“I want you to know how to study theology in the right way. I have practiced this method myself... Here you will find three rules. They are frequently proposed throughout Psalm [119] and run thus: prayer, meditation, tribulation...

... [tribulations] teach you not only to know and understand, but also to experience how right, how true, how sweet, how lovely, how mighty, how comforting God's Word is; it is wisdom supreme.”

Martin Luther

“Before I was afflicted I went
astray, but now I keep your word.”

Psalm 119:67

“It is good for me that I was afflicted, that I might learn your statutes.”

Psalm 119:71

“I know, O Lord, that your rules are righteous, and that in faithfulness you have afflicted me.”

Psalm 119:75



God's Good Design

James 1: Refinement

“Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.”

James 1:2-3

Responsibility in Trials

“Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.”

James 1:2-3

Reason for Trials

“Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, ***for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect,*** that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.”

James 1:2-3

Result of Trials

“Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, ***that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.***”

James 1:2-3



God's Good Design

John 11: Belief

“But when Jesus heard it he said,
“This illness does not lead to death. It is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.””

John 11:4

“Now *Jesus loved* Martha and her sister and Lazarus. **So**, when he heard that Lazarus was ill, *he stayed two days longer* in the place where he was.”

John 11:5-6

“Then Jesus told them plainly,
“Lazarus has died, and ***for your sake I am glad that I was not there, so that you may believe.***
But let us go to him.”

John 11:14-15

“Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died...”

“Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died...”

John 11:21, 32

“Jesus said to her, “***Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?***” So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, “Father, I thank you that you have heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I said this on account of the people standing around, ***that they may believe that you sent me.***”

John 11:40-42

A photograph of two women sitting on a brown couch. The woman on the left has long red hair in a ponytail, is wearing a plaid scarf, and has her head bowed with her hands clasped in prayer. The woman on the right has blonde hair and is wearing a grey patterned sweater, covering her face with her hands as if crying. The background shows a window with blinds and a green wall.

God's Good Design

2 Cor 1: Outfitting

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, ***who comforts us*** in all our affliction, ***so that we may be able to comfort*** those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.”

2 Cor 1:3-4

“For we do not want you to be unaware, brothers, of the affliction we experienced in Asia. For we were so utterly burdened beyond our strength that we despaired of life itself. Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death. ***But that was to make us rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead.***”

2 Cor 1:8-9



2. Examples of Suffering

Examples of Suffering



Examples of Suffering

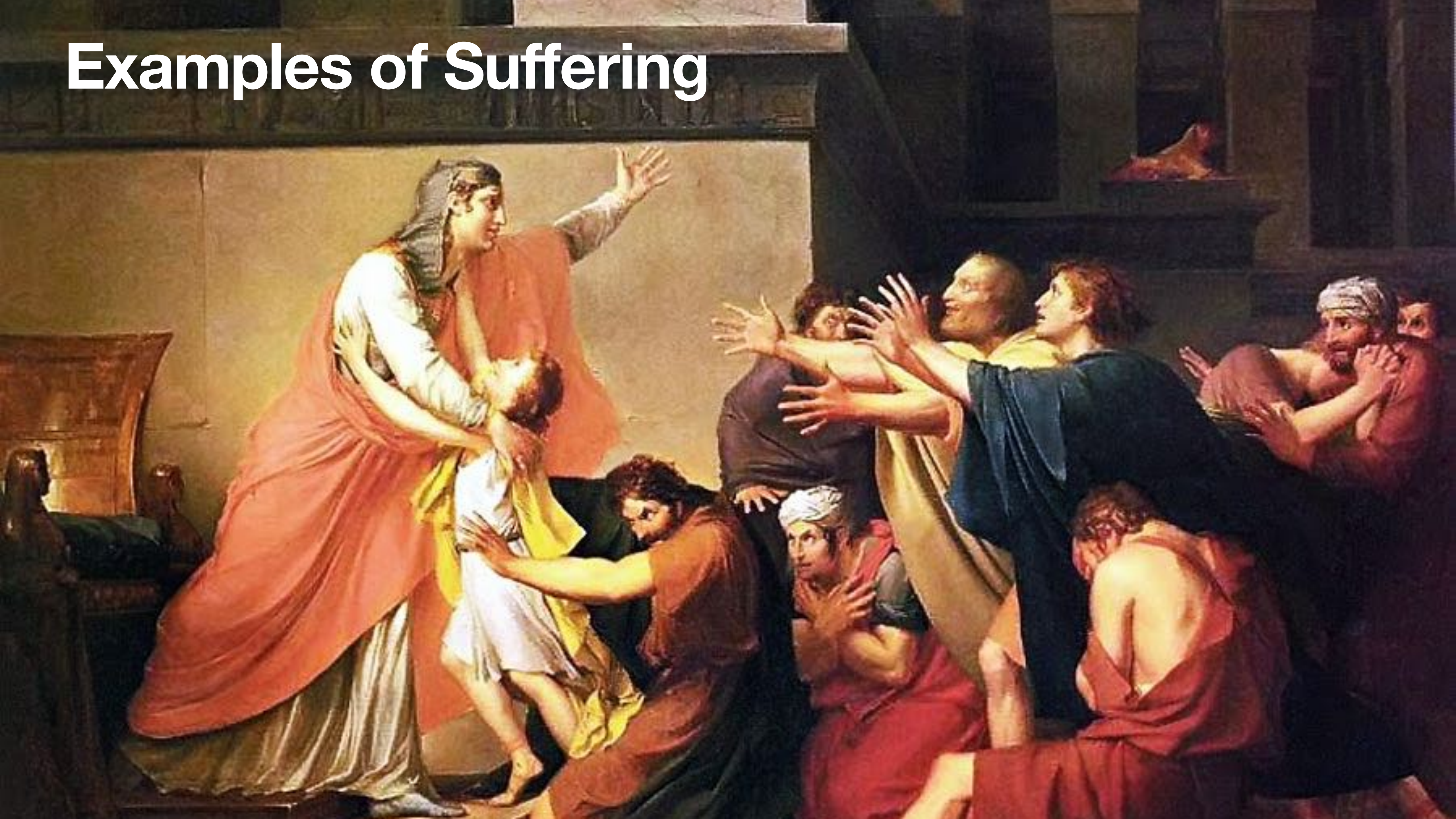
Job



“Then Satan answered the Lord and said, “***Does Job fear God for no reason?*** Have you not put a hedge around him and his house and all that he has, on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. ***But stretch out your hand and touch all that he has, and he will curse you to your face.***”

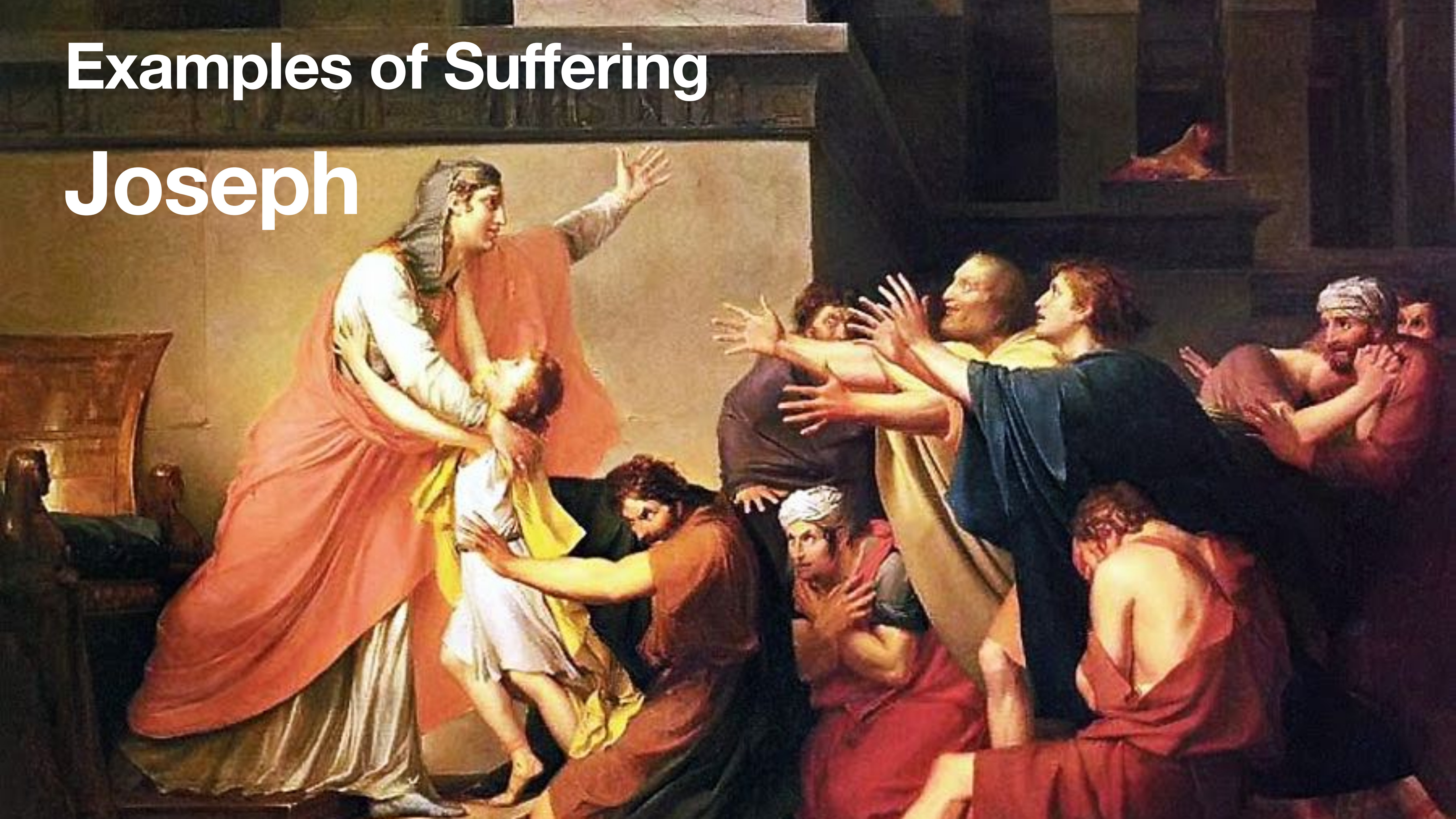
Job 1:9-11

Examples of Suffering



Examples of Suffering

Joseph



“As for you, *you meant evil* against me, but *God meant it for good*, to bring it about *that many people should be kept alive*, as they are today.”

Genesis 50:20

Examples of Suffering



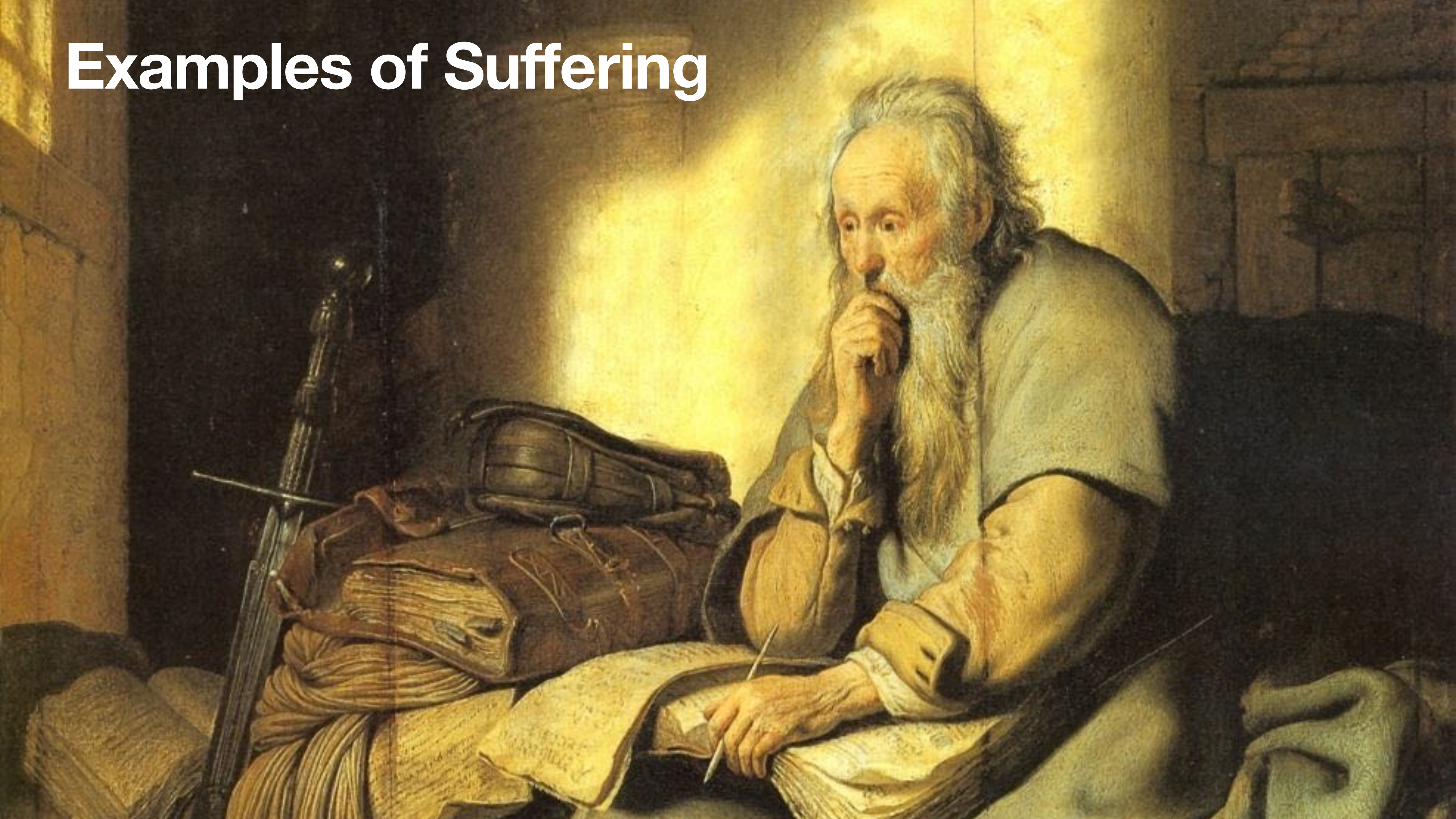
Examples of Suffering Ruth



“Now these are the generations of Perez: Perez fathered Hezron, Hezron fathered Ram, Ram fathered Amminadab, Amminadab fathered Nahshon, Nahshon fathered Salmon, Salmon fathered Boaz, Boaz fathered Obed, Obed fathered Jesse, and Jesse fathered *David*.

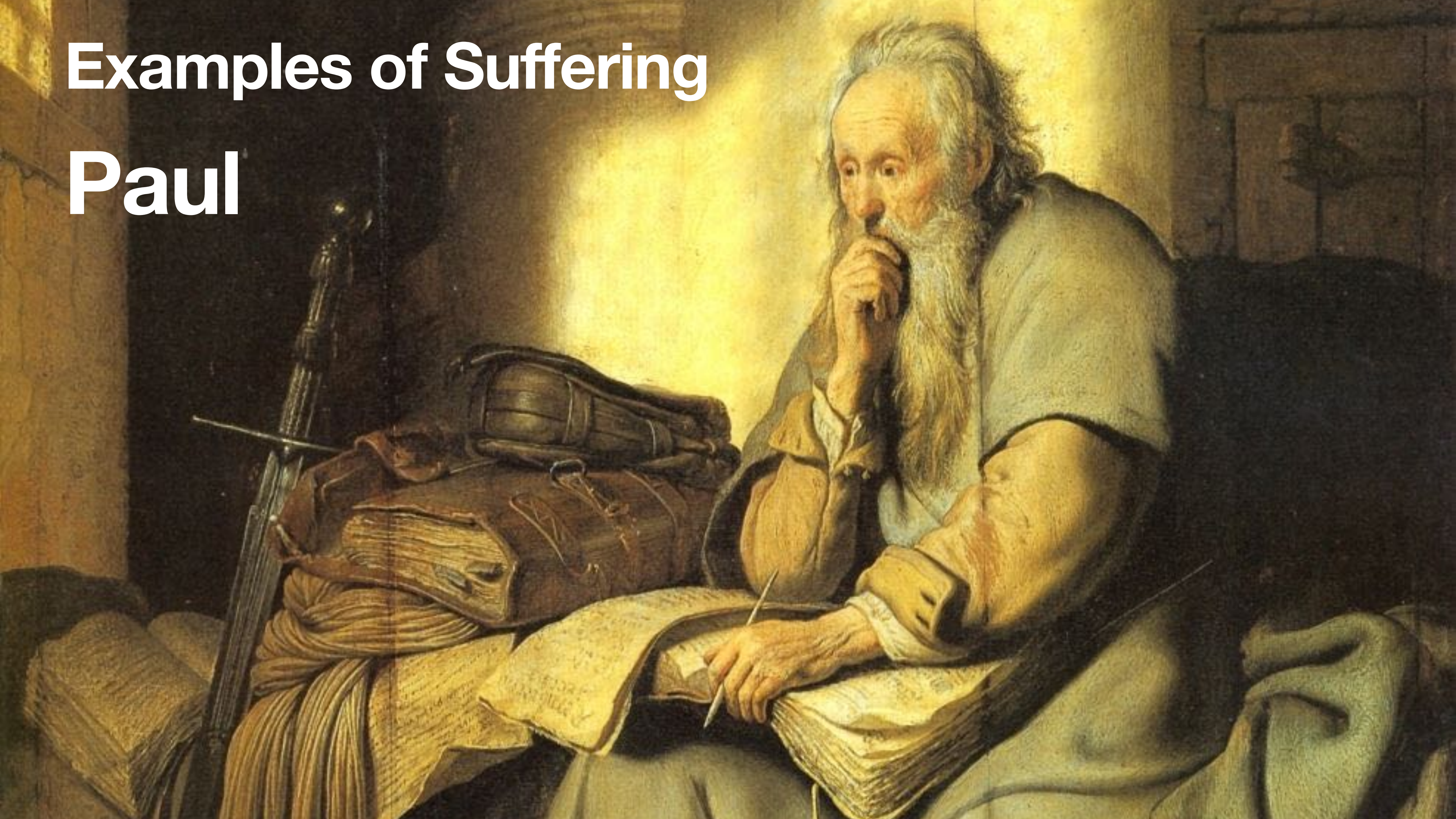
Ruth 4:18-22

Examples of Suffering



Examples of Suffering

Paul



“I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to ***advance the gospel***, so that it has become ***known throughout the whole imperial guard*** and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ. And most of the brothers, ***having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold*** to speak the word without fear.”

Philippians 1:12-14

Examples of Suffering Jesus



“For to this you have been called,
because Christ also suffered for
you, ***leaving you an example***, so
that you might ***follow in his steps***.”

1 Peter 2:21



3. Practical Suggestions for Sufferers



Practical Suggestions for Sufferers

- **Don't be surprised**
 - 1 Peter 4:12
- **Zoom Out**
 - 1 Peter 1:3-12
- **Go to God**
- **Go to People**



Practical Suggestions for Sufferers

- **Pay Attention**
 - What is God teaching me?
- **Don't go overboard**
- **Pray**
- **Humble Yourself**