



# Equipped *4life2serve*



Day 4: Sufferer  
-Wounded healer

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# *World-wide Church, equipped together!*

## Partnership in *Missio Dei* (1Peter 5:11)

- *the **Life** we **share** together - 1Pet. 3:7*
- *the **Love** we **show** together - Col. 2:2*
- *the **Lord** we **serve** together - Ph. 1:29*



The God of Peace **equips** us with **tools** to serve *one another* and to please *Him*!



1. Wonderful **Shepherd** intercedes *equipping us*
2. Powerful **Scriptures** entrusted to *equip us*
3. Faithful **Servants** gifted to *equip saints!*
4. Useful **Suffering** allowed to **equip** us!

Definition: 'Equipments'  
human tools *Gifts2GoServe!*



1. *Work of Prayer* (Sailors: 2Cor.13:9)
2. *Word as Sword* (Soldiers: 2T.3:17)
3. *Workers Gifted* (Servants: Eph.4:12)
4. *Wounded Healers* (Sufferers: 1P.5:10)



Being a **Wounded healer**, a '*living sacrifice*'

1 Pet.5:10 > Jn. 12:24; Rom 12:1; 2Cor.1:4

Pete, after **suffered**, will 'restore' **katartizo**

Principle: **dying2live; comforted2comfort**

- **Savior** = living Blood – Shepherd *equips*:  
**Scripture** = *living Book* – Gospel's power
- **Spirit** = *living Body* – Church alive serving
- **Sufferer** = Believer – *living sacrifice*,  
*Dead & Alive?!*



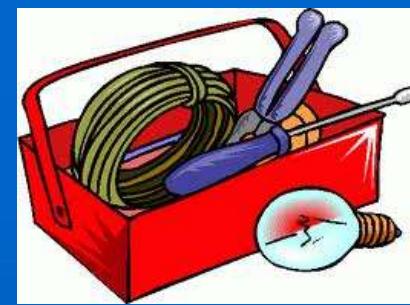
*Pain: a **problem** or X-ian **paradox**  
a language we all understand, well!*



1. Is it... something **bad / evil** (1Th.5:18)
2. Punishment for **sin** (karma Heb.10:12f)
3. Renders **non-productive** (Rom.5:3-5)
4. Incompatible with **God's Character**  
reconcile love/power/justice (Isa. 55:8-9)

*When encountering pain, loss, rejections we get  
easily disillusioned, filled with despair, Give Up!*

# Why *Bad* things happen ... to God's people?!



- We are **human**; live in *fallen-cursed* world
- We make bad **choices**; face *consequences*
- We **yield** to *temptations*; *lust* of the flesh
- We have a **common Foe**; he's a Destroyer!
- We belong to '**worldly**' system; *anti-Christ*!
- We are pilgrims not **settlers**, headed home

# *The Gift* - that Nobody Wants!

(2Cor. 12:9; Phil. 1:29)

No Pain; No Gain: 4*Ur* Good; *X's* Glory

- *Diamonds* and *Pearls*; Cost vs. Value
- *Fine process* <before/4> *Finished product!*

1. *Father* chastises child out of love
2. *Furnace* 'burns' gold to brighten!
3. *Farmer* prunes to be +productive





# Christ & Human Suffering! (Isa 53:10)

## *How God Chooses & Uses who He Bruises!*

X-ian *suffering* > *glory* 2follow 1Pet.1:11f

1. God's *will*; Our *call* 2:21; 3:9; 4:19
2. Christ's 'gift': our *joy*, privilege 1:22; 4:13
3. Spirit's power: grave/*grace*/glory 4:10, 14
4. Believer's faith grows *hope* & love: 1:6-9
5. Church's *witness*, 2world: 2:12; 5:13



# What's "Christian" Suffering?

*1 Peter 4:16f*



- 'Call' 2endure unjust trials *like Jesus* 2:21
- Not retaliate, but entrust to God as Judge
- Proof of genuine faith in Sovereign grace!
  
- 2Th 1 *Sufferer* = Paul's joy, crown & boast
- 'Righteous thing' reveals hope, vindication
- Incentive to live by Spirit worthy of 'calling'
- Suffer for name 2take Gospel2 the nations
- Badge of discipleship carrying his/my cross

# *When suffering ask yourself...*



1. Is it *God's Rod?* -  
take it! – Heb. 12:7-8

2. Is it *Satan's thorn?*  
grace it – 2Cor.12:7-10



3. Is it *my Cross?*  
bear it! – Luke 9:23

# How to let this tool called *suffering* shape or 'equip' us?



- *Expect* suffering, don't be surprised by it!
- *Focus* on Jesus' life & follow His example
- *Thank* God for His grace enough2endure
- *Trust* God's purifying purposes 4each trial
- *Allow* it enhance you 2witness... 2unsaved
- It humbles, yet helps anticipate... *Heaven!*



# *Joseph Damien: Wounded Healer*

Suffering that shares and shapes!



Saint Damien of Molokai  
Canonization - 11 October, 2009

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1840-1889  
Memorial Feast - 10 May  
Apostle to the Afflicted  
Father Damien, Pray For Us!



“My God is too good to be unkind to me, and too wise to make mistakes in my life, I’ll keep trusting my Lord!” – *Dr. C. Gnanakan*