

Why on earth should Christians *rejoice* in suffering?

For Christians:

What opposition have you experienced because you are a Christian?

How can we help each other when we're suffering?

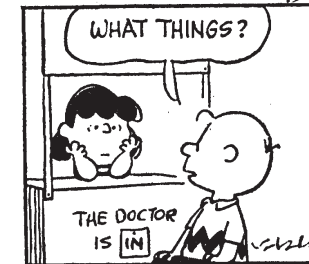
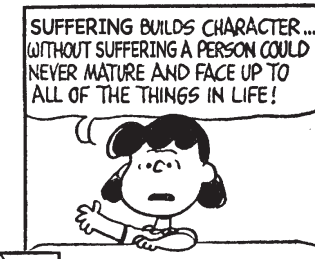
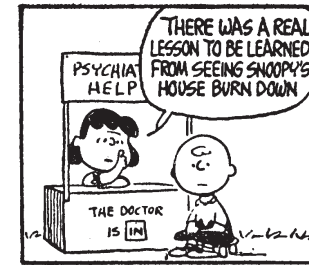
If you are not a Christian:

What have you learnt about God?

What have you learnt about following Jesus?

How will you respond?

Pray for each other, and other Christian brothers & sisters around the world, as we endure suffering.



suffering

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Suffering for Christians

Discuss

Do you think following Jesus increases or decreases your suffering? Why?

So far in this series, we've been thinking about suffering that all people face as part of life in the world under God's curse.

This week, we're focusing on some types of suffering that are specifically for Christians.

Discipline

Did your parents discipline you as a child? Share some examples.

Look up the following passages.

What purpose does God have for disciplining his children?

Hebrews 12:1-14

Romans 5:1-5

James 1:2-4

If you are a Christian, do you see your suffering as God's discipline of you?

Can you see examples of God achieving good purposes in your life through suffering? / Can you see examples of this in your life?

What are some good things to pray for ourselves and others when we suffer?

Persecution

Read the following passages... What is the normal Christian life like?

Mark 8:34-35

John 15:18-20

2 Timothy 3:12

1 Peter 4:12-16