

Jesus Heals The Blind

Causes of Spiritual Blindness:

- Not a **follower** of **Jesus**
- **Indulgence** in the things of this **world**
- Not **getting** the **truth** of God into your life

Symptoms of Spiritual Blindness:

- **Believe** lies and reject **truth**
Disciples:
Us:
- Living for the **here** and **now**
Disciples:
Us:
- **Inflated** view of self
Disciples:
Us:
- **Negotiate** the purpose of Jesus
Disciples:
Us:
- **Diminish** the danger of sin
Disciples:
Us:

Cures for Spiritual Blindness:

- **Admit** you're blind
- **Surrender** to Jesus
- Make **provision** for the Spirit not the flesh

Food for Thought for the week of September 1, 2019
(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

NIV – New International Version

1. In Christopher's message this weekend, the disciples asked to have places of glory in heaven, and Jesus responded by asking if they were able to take part in his suffering. When you think about your own personal seasons of suffering, what were those experiences like?

Read the following verses and write how they relate to trials and suffering:

Matthew 5:3-11 - *"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ⁴ Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. ⁵ Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. ⁶ Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. ⁷ Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. ⁸ Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. ⁹ Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. ¹⁰ Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ¹¹ Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me.*

Romans 12:12-16 - *Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. ¹³ Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality. ¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.*

Romans 8:28-29 - *And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who ^a have been called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.*

1 Peter 1:6-9 - *In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. ⁷ These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. ⁸ Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, ⁹ for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.*

James 1:2-4 - *Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, ³ because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. ⁴ Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.*

How might God have used trials and suffering to mature you?

2. God often equips us through trials and difficult seasons in our lives to be able to minister to others. Write down how you see this truth revealed in 2 Corinthians 1:3-7.

2 Corinthians 1:3-7 - *Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, ⁴ who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God. ⁵ For just as we share abundantly in the sufferings of Christ, so also our comfort abounds through Christ. ⁶ If we are distressed, it is for your comfort and salvation; if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which produces in you patient endurance of the same sufferings we suffer. ⁷ And our hope for you is firm, because we know that just as you share in our sufferings, so also you share in our comfort.*

Can you think of any positive or negative examples in your life when someone has attempted to show you compassion or empathy? Is there anything you can learn from what they did or did not do?

Take a moment to pray and ask God to show you how he can use your trials, sufferings or difficulties to minister to others.