

## SUFFERING AS A GIFT?

Philippians 1.27-30

### AN UNLIKELY (AND UNWANTED!) GIFT

Philippians 1.27-30

Paul tells us that "it has been granted" to us that we would believe in Him. We were given the gift of faith! What an amazing gift! But he says that not only do we receive that gift, but also we are granted suffering! Notice they are joined by a single verb, meaning that they both are given from God in the same way.

**Greek: charizomai.** You may know that the word *charis* in Greek is "gift" or "grace." This is the verb form of "gift," and it is translated as "granted," because the object (here it is "believing" and "suffering") is being "freely given" as a gift.

Luke 7.21, 42 // Romans 8.32

### GOD IS PURPOSEFUL AND SOVEREIGN OVER ALL THINGS

Habakkuk 1.1-10, 2.4

Here, Habakkuk questions God. Nothing in life makes sense. God seems to be an absentee slumlord. But He tells Habakkuk, "look, son, I know you don't see it, and it looks crazy. But even if I pulled back the curtain and showed you what My purpose in it all was, you still wouldn't believe me. I'm that good."

Romans 8.18 // Exodus 4.11 // Isaiah 37.26 // Psalm 33.10, 11  
! Peter 4.19 // 1 Thessalonians 3.3 // Exodus 5.22, 23

**What is truly more comforting? A God who is not in control of everything, with Satan just having his way?  
Or a God who is wisely in control of every detail of every second of every day of every person's life?**

### WHY WE SHOULD RECEIVE THE GIFT BY FAITH

2 Corinthians 4.16-18

#### **Three Reasons Why We Should Receive the Gift of Suffering by Faith:**

1. We can give thanks for what it does in you. **James 1.2-4, Romans 5.3-5**
  - a. When we physically work out, we get stronger from resistance. In our faith, resistance is what builds up our "spiritual muscle."
2. We can give thanks for what it accomplishes for others
  - a. You desire to be a blessing for others, don't you? Being able to be deeply empathetic and walk arm in arm with someone through their suffering can change others' lives.
3. We can give thanks for what it does to bring glory and honor to Christ.
  - a. Our response in suffering is what magnifies Him more than all.
  - b. **Verse 29** even says it is "for the sake of Christ."

## NOTES:

#### This Week's Scripture to Memorize:

**John 1:14**

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

#### Will You Pray With Us?

Follow along with our daily prayer requests by downloading the **PrayerMate App**, available on both **iOS** and **Android** phones. Go to our website for detailed instructions on how to subscribe to the app to be praying with us daily, as well as reading through our **2 Year Bible Reading Plan**.

## ARE YOU NEW HERE?

### WELCOME TO LIFE MISSION CHURCH!

We'd LOVE for you to fill out the green **Connection Card** on your seat to let us know you were here today. You can drop it in the offering at the end of service or take it to one of our teammates in a **Green Shirt** at the **Connection Booth** outside - we'd love to give you some welcome information. Feel free to grab some food or coffee out in the courtyard and hang out. We hope you'll **join us next Sunday** and consider making us your church family.

### SERVING OPPORTUNITIES

If you've ever taken your child to one of our **Kids on Mission** classes, or enjoyed a cup of coffee after service, chances are there was a faithful servant behind each of those examples. Serving is one of the **most fun & rewarding ways we experience community** with our church family! **Fill out a connection card** to learn about the serving opportunities available today.

### COMMUNITY GROUPS

The best way to **get connected** in the church is by joining one of our **Community Groups!** You'll forge friendships, be encouraged, and take the sermon deeper into your heart every week. **Sign up for a Group** on a **Connection Card** or visit the **Connection Booth**. You won't regret it!

### GIVING

**Gospel-centered generosity** is motivated by a heart of thankfulness because of the sacrificial love God has already shown us. If you call **Life Mission** your home, you can place your gift in the offering baskets at the end of service, give online at [lifemissionchurch.com/blog/give](http://lifemissionchurch.com/blog/give) or mail a check to our PO Box. Thank you so much!

### KIDS ON MISSION

Our **Kids on Mission** ministry has classes for **newborns - 5th grade**. Visit our website to read more about the vision and plan we have for our kids, including Pastor Jobey's heart for the ministry and his walkthrough of our curriculum. For questions about KOM email **Katie McGinty** at [katie@lifemission.tv](mailto:katie@lifemission.tv)

### JUNIOR HIGH STUDENTS

Our **6th - 8th graders** worship with the adults and then head to the junior high room with their teacher and classmates for the rest of service.

### HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Our **9th - 12th graders** stay in the service because we believe that it is critical for them to not "graduate the faith" when they graduate school. Our **High School Ministry meets on Thursday Nights @7PM at Casey & Amy Barnes Home in San Marcos**. For directions and/or questions about our student ministries, contact **Casey Barnes** at [casey@lifemission.tv](mailto:casey@lifemission.tv).

## VISION: WHY DO WE EXIST?

We want to see God's glory known among the nations, to the least, last, and lost.

## MISSION: WHAT DO WE NEED TO DO?

We need to make disciples who make disciples locally and globally, who are saved, equipped, and sent by the Gospel.

## STRATEGY: HOW WILL WE DO IT?

By teaching people how to be rooted in the Gospel of God's glory through the Word of God, Prayer, and Gospel Community.

## CONTACT US:

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[Facebook.com/LifeMissionChurch](https://www.facebook.com/LifeMissionChurch)  
Twitter: @YourLifeMission  
[YouTube.com/LifeMissionTV](https://www.youtube.com/LifeMissionTV)

## COMMUNITY GROUP HOMEWORK

Before your group starts, ask if anyone is able to recite the memory verse.

Read **Philippians 1:27-30**. What was noteworthy, thought-provoking or encouraging from this week's sermon or Scripture? \_\_\_\_\_

Most of us probably gladly accept God's blessings in our lives. Read **Philippians 3:10, Matthew 10:38-39, and 1 Peter 4:16**. Do we just as gladly accept suffering in our lives? Why or why not? What are we believing or not believing that might drive this acceptance or lack of acceptance? \_\_\_\_\_

Read **James 1:2-4, Romans 5:3-4, and 2 Corinthians 1:3-4**. How can God use suffering in our lives to glorify Him or build us and others up? \_\_\_\_\_

Can you recall a time where God allowed suffering in your life? Was it used for His glory? If so, how? Did it teach you something about God's character or His plan for you? \_\_\_\_\_

Read **Habakkuk 1:1-4**. Habakkuk questions God's plan and what He is allowing. Now read verses **5-10**. What does God tell him? How then should we perceive suffering or injustices today? \_\_\_\_\_

Read **Isaiah 45:6-7, Isaiah 55: 8-11, Proverbs 16:4, and Romans 8:28**. What do these verses tell us about God's sovereignty and faithfulness? Does it change the way we feel about suffering and the struggles we see in our world? \_\_\_\_\_

At our monthly **Prayer Meeting** a couple weeks ago, we discussed allowing more time for prayer in our **Community Groups** and asked God for an increased desire for prayer. Take extra time throughout your week to ask God to give us that desire for prayer. Pray for the people in your group. Ask God specifically to be glorified in our suffering and the suffering we see in our world. Once at your group, consider breaking off into smaller groups to pray for each other's hearts as you go through times of difficulty and suffering, that God would be glorified in their life, and in the lives around them.



**Pastor Jobey McGinty**  
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**Making Disciples Who Make Disciples Locally and Globally,  
Who are Saved, Equipped, and Sent by the Gospel.**



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Philippians 1.27-30 // July 24, 2016

## SUNDAYS AT 10AM

Life Mission Church Meets at Classical Academy High School  
207 E Pennsylvania Ave, Escondido 92025