

Volume 1, Day 10 — SHARING HIS SUFFERINGS

“Rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings.” 1 Peter 4:13

If you are ever to be used by God, He will take you through a multitude of experiences that are not meant to improve you at all. They are meant to conform you to His purposes and make you useful in His hands. They are to enable you to understand what transpires in other souls so that you will never be surprised at what you encounter. “Oh, I can't deal with that person.” “Why not?” God created ample opportunities for you to soak in His love so that you could. But you walked off because you thought it was a waste of time learning to dispense love to such persons.

The sufferings of Christ are not those of ordinary men. He suffered “according to the will of God,” not from the point of view of human nature. It is only when we are rightly related to Jesus Christ that we can understand what God is after in His dealings with us and others. It is part of Christian culture to know what God's aim is. In the history of the Christian Church the tendency has been to avoid the sufferings of Jesus Christ. Men have sought to carry out God's orders by shortcuts of their own. God's way always includes suffering from the human nature point of view.

Are we experiencing sufferings of the same kind as Christ's? Are we willing to let God to crush our personal ambitions? Will we let God destroy by transfiguration our individual goals and aspirations? This will not mean that we know **exactly why** God is taking us through suffering. That would make us spiritually arrogant. We seldom realize at the time what God is putting us through. But we go through it whether we understand it or not.

When we do come to understand it, we say, “Wow! God has used it to increase my trust in Him.

My Utmost for His Highest - Oswald Chambers