

# NEW THINGS

## *Rejoice in Sufferings*

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*Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>2</sup> through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. <sup>3</sup> **Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; <sup>4</sup> perseverance, character; and character, hope. <sup>5</sup> And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us. (Romans 5:1-5)***

The only way you can “rejoice in sufferings” is to have the Biblical life view.

**2 Corinthians 4:17-18** For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. <sup>18</sup> So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

**Colossians 3:1-5** Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup> Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. <sup>3</sup> For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. <sup>4</sup> When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. <sup>5</sup> Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature

**1 Peter 2:11** Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and strangers in the world, to abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul.

**Hebrews 12:2** Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross,

**Matthew 6:33** But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

**Romans 8:28-29** And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. <sup>29</sup> For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son

### **Shattered Dreams: God’s Unexpected Pathway to Joy**

by Dr. Larry Crabb

*“The problem sincere Christians have with God often comes down to a wrong understanding of what life is meant to provide. We naturally and wrongly assume we’re here to experience something God has never promised. More than perhaps ever before in history, we assume we are here for one fundamental reason: to have a good time -if not good circumstances, then at least good feelings. We long to feel alive, to sense passion and romance and freedom. We want the good time of enjoying godly kids, of making a difference in people’s lives, of involvement with close friends, of experiencing God’s peace. So we invent “biblical” strategies for seeing to it that our dreams come true. We call them models of godly parenting and disciplines of spiritual living and principles of financial stewardship - all designed to give us a legitimately good time....We long to experience a compelling pleasure that eliminates all pain..sometimes all that separates Christians from non-Christians is our understanding of how to produce those*

*feelings. The pursuit of soul-pleasure remains primary. It continues to be the aim behind our choices rather than an occasional and welcome by-product of a higher aim: the aim of glorifying God as the object of our deepest, most passionate desire. We continue to want something or someone more than God. We don't think that's our biggest problem, but it is."*

Shattered dreams can be our truest blessing...they help us discover our true hope and God's original dream for us! Shattered dreams open the door to a better dream, a dream that we do not properly value until the dreams that we improperly valued, are gone.

**1 Peter 1:6-7** though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. <sup>7</sup> These have come so that your faith-- of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire-- may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus

**2 Corinthians 12:8-10** Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. <sup>9</sup> But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. <sup>10</sup> That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

*"The best thing to report is, that I feel so happy here. It would be so easy to grow bitter if one lost the spiritual viewpoint and began to look at circumstances. I am learning to thank God for literally everything that comes. I experienced so many things that looked terrible, but which finally brought me closer to Him. Each time circumstances became lighter, I was tempted to break fellowship with the Lord. How can I do otherwise than thank Him for additional hardships. They only help me to what I always longed for - a continuous, unbroken abiding in Him. Every so-called hard experience is just another step higher and closer to Him."*  
Mary, missionary in Northern Siberia

## **How To Rejoice in Suffering:**

### **1. Embrace the Biblical life view**

*"No one will calmly and quietly submit to bear the cross except those who have learned to seek their happiness beyond this world."* John Calvin

### **2. Expect difficulty to come**

**John 16:33** In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

**Philippians 1:29** For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for him

**1 Peter 4:12-13** Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you. <sup>13</sup> But rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed

### **3. Look to and anchor your hope in the Cross**

**Hebrews 6:19-20** We have this hope as an **anchor for the soul**, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain, <sup>20</sup> where Jesus, who went before us, has entered on our behalf

**A. At the cross, we settle once and for all, that God is good, and that He loves us.**

**B. At the cross, we see that God can turn the absolute worst into absolute beauty.**