

The Royal Law & Providential Preventive Suffering: Designed to Prevent Arrogance & Accelerate Growth; 3 Spiritual Skills versus 3 Arrogant Skills

VII. The Royal Law and Providential Preventive Suffering:

1. This level of suffering has two objectives: (1) to prevent the advancing believer from becoming arrogant, and (2) to provide tests that challenge him to use doctrine to resolve issues so he can accelerate his advance to spiritual autonomy.
2. There are a couple of attitudes that can develop in the soul of a believer new to the sophisticated spiritual life. First, there is the danger of appointing oneself as Spiritual King of the Mountain.
3. The believer in this mind-set assumes he is more mature than others and therefore concludes that his choices and actions are beyond reproach. This produces a doctrinal bully.
4. The other attitude is closely related to the first. The believer armed with the power of doctrinal thought assumes he is the source of its power and functions without the filling of the Holy Spirit. Operating in the cosmic system means he is producing human good and evil. Works without divine power are dead.
5. God knows these attitudes are possible and heads them off at the pass by means of divinely imposed suffering in order to prevent these things from occurring.
6. God permits suffering as a corrective; basic training for application of problem-solving devices, and as a means of accelerating spiritual growth.
7. Suffering solicits concentration on what you know and thus challenges the believer to apply from biblical wisdom instead of human viewpoint.
8. Thus suffering is a test to see if a believer's spiritual self-esteem is developed enough to apply a biblical worldview to the issue or whether instead he will revert to the secular worldview of old wheel-tracks.
9. The challenge is to see if the believer can think independently. If not then he may revert to human viewpoint and behavior patterns common to his pre-salvation modus operandi.
10. The suffering can come in a number of categories but let's take, for example, people testing. The challenge is to determine if the "people" are really your adversaries or if you are the person testing them.
11. This situation requires unconditional love for those who have harmed you and also for those you may have harmed. The royal law is designed to enable us to get past personality conflicts.
12. The royal law is the healing agent when the body of Christ is damaged by a breakdown in interpersonal relationships.

13. The human disposition in its fallen condition is inherently self-centered. Spiritual self-esteem enables the believer to get his eyes off of self and onto God which also results in getting one's eyes off others.
14. Suffering is designed to inculcate this disposition or restore it when it is lost. In the process the believer learns to depend on divine power rather than human aggressiveness such as the three arrogant skills.
15. When challenged by the actions, behaviors, decisions, and failures of others, suffering can be caused by opting for the three arrogant skills instead of the three spiritual skills.
16. The three spiritual skills keep one's concentration focused on the priorities of the spiritual advance: (1) status quo spirituality through the filling of the Holy Spirit, (2) spiritual growth by utilization of the Spirit's power to learn God's Word, and (3) the development of biblical problem-solving devices and inhibition of cosmic solutions.
17. When suffering results in opting for the three arrogant skills, wheel-tracks of wickedness intervene to halt the spiritual advance in favor of human reactor factors: self-justification, self-deception, and self-absorption, or the three arrogant skills.
18. Providential preventive suffering is designed to place the believer into a circumstance where he is forced to deal with a situation that can only be resolved with biblical problem-solving devices.
19. Old approaches to the challenge will result in retrogression to the old modus operandi of status quo carnality and its cosmic worldview.