

# The Kingdom of God and Suffering

**Know** the kingdom  
**Embrace** the kingdom  
**Display** the kingdom

**Luke 6:20** - *Looking at his disciples, he said: "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.* NIV

**Acts 14:21-22** - *They preached the good news in that city and won a large number of disciples. Then they returned to Lystra, Iconium and Antioch, 22 strengthening the disciples and encouraging them to remain true to the faith. "We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God," they said.* NIV

- **Suffering servitude and Kingdom authority collide in the lives of those who follow Christ.**

## When Does Servitude And Authority Collide?

### 1. Times of injustice

**1 Peter 2:19-21** - *For it is commendable if a man bears up under the pain of unjust suffering because he is conscious of God. 20 But how is it to your credit if you receive a beating for doing wrong and endure it? But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God. 21 To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.* NIV

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### 2. Times of persecution

**2 Thess 1:4-6** - *Therefore, among God's churches we boast about your perseverance and faith in all the persecutions and trials you are enduring. 5 All this is evidence that God's judgment is right, and as a result you will be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are suffering.* NIV

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### 3. Times of growth

**Phil 1:29-30** - *For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for him, 30 since you are going through the same struggle you saw I had, and now hear that I still have.* NIV

- **Suffering is often the way of working out God's intention in us.**
- **Suffering creates intimacy.**