

## BE A BRINGER

*“40 One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. 41 He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated, the Christ). 42 And he brought him to Jesus....”*  
John 1:40-42a

A bringer makes one touch each week by investing and inviting someone to Christ and church.

Name three people you will pray for their salvation this week:

## PRAYER REQUESTS FOR THE WEEK

*“Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you;....”* I Samuel 12:23a

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GROWTH  
GUIDE

**GROWING**  
through  
**CRISIS**

Handout: 04/19/20

Study: 04//26/20

## Growing From Ignorance To Knowledge

Rejoicing in the midst of suffering focuses our attention on the knowledge of what the Spirit produces in us through that suffering. The result is threefold: suffering produces endurance, endurance produces character, and character produces hope.

### Suffering Unleashes Endurance

Endurance in the Bible means steadfast adherence to a course of action in spite of difficulties and testing. As we go through trials, we develop greater perseverance to deal with increased challenges.

### Endurance Unleashes Character

As God produces in us greater fortitude and capacity to deal with more hardship, He brings out character. Character is the image of Christ that’s present in us being made clearer. In essence, character means to expose the quality of what’s being tested.

In the heat of suffering, God gives grace for us to endure. A goldsmith uses heat under a smelting pot to bring the impurities to the top, which are skimmed off, leaving only the pure gold behind. In the same way, God uses our suffering to bring out the impurities in our lives and remove them. The smelter knows the gold is ready to come off the heat when he sees his face in the melted metal. There are no impurities left to obscure his reflection. When the goldsmith sees his reflection, he knows the precious metal is now ready to be molded into what he desires. This is a picture of the way God brings out our character through suffering.

### Character Unleashes Hope

Character that’s sanctified by the gospel becomes progressively more stable and is therefore able to focus more effectively on the things of the Lord. Character unleashes hope in suffering. Hope is the joyful expectation of what the Lord has promised.

As disciples of Jesus, we must use hard times to harness who we really are in Christ. Until the earthen vessel is broken, the treasure within it can’t be seen. Likewise, as our brokenness is exposed, Jesus is seen. It’s glorious to know that a Christian’s suffering in this life isn’t a denial of who Christ is but an affirmation. As we experience hardship, every test of the living God finds us transformed into pure gold for His glory.

Source: “3 Ways Suffering Produces Sanctification” by Ed Stetzer

## KEY VERSE

Romans 5:3 (NKJV)

*“And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance”*

## WEEKLY READINGS

**Monday: Romans 5:1-5; I Thessalonians 1:6; John 16:33**

### Introduction

1. We have all gained knowledge about viruses and ways to stay healthy during this Covid-19 crisis. What knowledge have you gained about your faith through this situation?
2. What spiritual lessons have you learned over the past several weeks? How will you carry this knowledge forward into the future?

**Tuesday: Acts 5:40-42; I Peter 4:12-14; Philippians 2:14-15**

### God Desires You To Rejoice In Tribulation

3. It can be difficult to rejoice when times are difficult. Why do you think God wants us to rejoice anyway?
4. How can your life be filled with tribulation and also full of rejoicing?

**Wednesday: Romans 5:3; James 1:2-5**

### Know That Tribulation Develops Perseverance

5. How has our current crisis impacted your perseverance? Does your faith feel stronger or worn down?
6. How can a difficult trial make your faith unbreakable?

**Thursday: Romans 5:4a; I Peter 1:6-7; Job 23:8-10**

### Know That Perseverance Develops Character

7. What has this crisis taught you about your character?
8. The article on the cover compares suffering to the process a goldsmith goes through to remove impurities from the gold. What impurities might God be removing from your life through our crisis?
9. How does perseverance cause character?

**Friday: Romans 5:4b; 15:13; II Corinthians 11:24-29**

### Know That Character Develops Hope

10. What hope do you have during our crisis?
11. How has the crisis changed what you hope in?
12. How have you become more confident in your faith?