



*Minister Anita P. Latin, A.S., B.S., MAT
Founder & Visionary*

Abounding Love Bible Ministry
PO Box 2053
San Francisco, CA 94126



SUFFERING FOR CHRIST

1 PETER 2:21

OVERVIEW:

HAVE YOU EVER FELT THAT UNSAVED WOMEN YOU KNOW FROM SCHOOL, WORK, AND YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD SEEM TO HAVE THEIR LIFE ALL TOGETHER? THEY ARE IN FLOURISHING RELATIONSHIPS; THEIR CHILDREN ARE ACCEPTED INTO THE TOP IVY-LEAGUE LEARNING INSTITUTIONS; THEY ARE ALWAYS FINDING FAVOR WITH THE BOSS AND CONTINUOUSLY RISING UP THE CORPORATE LADDER; THEY TAKE LUXURIOUS FAMILY VACATIONS; BUY THE TOP DESIGNER CLOTHES AND SPORT THE MOST EXQUISITE JEWELS?

BUT YOU LOOK AT YOUR SITUATION – LIVING PAYCHECK TO PAYCHECK, FIGHTING WITH AN UNSAVED SPOUSE OR SIGNIFICANT OTHER, CONSTANTLY STRUGGLING TO MAINTAIN YOUR SANITY AND FIND SOME “ME” TIME BECAUSE YOU ARE SO ENGROSSED WITH THE SOLE RESPONSIBILITY OF RAISING CHILDREN EITHER AS A SINGLE MOM, OR A MARRIED MOTHER WHO’S HUSBAND JUST DOESN’T SEEM TO PLAY AN ACTIVE ROLE IN YOUR CHILDREN’S LIFE. YOU’RE DRAGGING YOURSELF OUT RELIGIOUSLY TO CHOIR REHEARSAL, BIBLE-STUDY AND SUNDAY SCHOOL AND RELUCTANTLY AGREE TO BE AT THE NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING, SO YOU WON’T LOOK LIKE YOU’RE NOT CONCERNED ABOUT YOUR CHURCH AND IT’S PROGRESS. YOU ASK YOURSELF, "WHY DOES IT SEEM LIKE FOR EVERY STEP FORWARD CREATES THREE STEPS BACKWARDS?"



*Minister Anita P. Latin, A.S., B.S., MAT
Founder & Visionary*

Abounding Love Bible Ministry
PO Box 2053
San Francisco, CA 94126

YOU TRY YOUR BEST TO BE A ROLE MODEL FOR YOUR CHILDREN AS WELL AS THE OTHER CHILDREN IN THE CHURCH AND IN YOUR COMMUNITY. YOU WANT TO BE THAT POSITIVE PERSON WHO THEY CAN LOOK UP TO WHEN THEY NEED SOMEONE. YOU OPEN THE DOORS OF YOUR HOME TO YOUR CHILDREN'S FRIENDS AS THE NEIGHBORHOOD HANG OUT SO YOU CAN SEE AND KNOW EXACTLY WHO THEY ASSOCIATE WITH BECAUSE YOU KNOW THAT A LOT OF THEM ARE NOT GETTING THE LOVE AND ATTENTION THEY NEED OR WANT AT THEIR OWN HOME. GOD HAS SPOKEN TO YOUR HEART TO CREATE A SAFE AND WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT IN YOUR HOME FOR THEM TOO!

THEN YOU TRY WITH ALL YOUR MIGHT TO LOVE THE UNLOVING AND THE UNLOVABLE, TO GET ALONG WITH EACH AND EVERYONE AND TO ALWAYS HAVE AN OPTIMISTIC POINT OF VIEW YET YOU ARE DISLIKED, ENVIED, RIDICULED AND UNAPPRECIATED BY THOSE IN THE CHURCH WHO ARE THREATENED BY THE GOD THEY SEE IN YOU, ON YOU, AND THROUGH YOU! THEY'RE UPSET BECAUSE THEY DON'T WANT TO DO ANYTHING AND DON'T WANT YOU TO DO ANYTHING EITHER.

WE ARE ALL AWARE OF THE RIDICULE AND OPPOSITION THAT JESUS ENCOUNTERED WHILE ON EARTH. EVERYTHING HE DID AND SAID WAS CONSTANTLY BEING CRITIQUED BY THE NAYSAYERS, AND EVERY MOTIVE QUESTIONED. **NOTE:** NONE OF THIS TOOK PLACE UNTIL HE BEGAN TO BE ABOUT HIS FATHER'S BUSINESS. ONE WEEK THE PEOPLE WERE PRAISING AND HAILING HIM. AND THE VERY NEXT WEEK THOSE SAME PEOPLE CRIED, "CRUCIFY HIM!"



*Minister Anita P. Latin, A.S., B.S., MAT
Founder & Visionary*

Abounding Love Bible Ministry
PO Box 2053
San Francisco, CA 94126

—Teaching point one: LEARN HOW TO ENDURE YOUR SUFFERING

LET ME REMIND YOU THAT AS CHRISTIAN WOMEN, YOU FACE SO MANY MOUNTAIN-TOP AND VALLEY-LOW EXPERIENCES DEALING WITH FAMILY, FRIENDS, JOBS AND JUST EVERYDAY LIFE. YOU ARE STRIVING TO LEARN HOW TO BEAR IT ALL KNOWING, AS JESUS DID, THAT HE WOULD BE RAISED FROM THE GRAVE WITH ALL POWER IN HEAVEN AND EARTH IN HIS HANDS. THIS IS HOW YOU LIVE AS CHRISTIAN WOMEN WHO BELIEVE IN HIM AND HAVE FAITH, KNOWING THAT YOU WILL OVERCOME YOUR HARDSHIPS AND DISAPPOINTMENTS, THROUGH GOD’S GRACE AND MERCY. HE WILL NOT PUT MORE ON YOU THAN YOU CAN BEAR. IF GOD BRINGS YOU TO IT HE WILL BRING YOU THROUGH IT.

NOW LET’S LOOK CLOSER AT THIS THING CALLED SUFFERING...THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS ARE DESIGNED TO HELP YOU “CONSIDER” IN THE DAY OF ADVERSITY:

How am I responding to it?



*Minister Anita P. Latin, A.S., B.S., MAT
Founder & Visionary*

Abounding Love Bible Ministry
PO Box 2053
San Francisco, CA 94126

How should I respond to it?

What am I learning from it?

Does my response demonstrate faith, love for God and for others, Christ-like character, values, commitment, priorities, etc.?

How can God use it in my life?



*Minister Anita P. Latin, A.S., B.S., MAT
Founder & Visionary*

Abounding Love Bible Ministry
PO Box 2053
San Francisco, CA 94126

—*Teaching point two:* **THERE ARE SEVEN REASONS FOR SUFFERING**

1. ADAM'S FALL – SIN
2. VIOLATION OF GOD'S NATURAL LAW (GLOBAL WARMING)
3. VIOLATION OF GOD'S MORAL LAW (MURDER, ADULTERY, FORNICATION)
4. SATANIC ORIGIN
5. GLORY TO GOD
6. SALVATION
7. SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

THE PRINCIPLE OF CAUSE AND EFFECT IS A REALITY! SOME SUFFERING IS BECAUSE OF SOMETHING YOU'VE DONE, SAID OR THOUGHT. SOME SUFFERING IS BECAUSE OF SOMETHING SOMEONE ELSE DOES TO YOU. AND SOME SUFFERING IS BECAUSE OF SOMETHING GOD NEEDS TO DO TO YOU, IN YOU, FOR YOU AND THROUGH YOU!

SO STAY PRAYERFUL AND SEEK GOD'S FACE TO KNOW WHICH SITUATION MIGHT BE HAPPENING AT THAT MOMENT AND WHAT LESSON NEEDS TO BE LEARNED DURING THE PROCESS. DON'T BREAK UNDER THE PRESSURE. BUT INSTEAD BUCKLE UP FOR THE RIDE! EITHER WAY IT GOES, YOU KNOW THAT GOD IS WITH YOU AND THAT HE IS ABLE TO CARRY YOU THROUGH. ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS ASK THE SAVIOR TO HELP YOU, COMFORT, STRENGTHEN AND KEEP YOU. WHEN YOU SUFFER FOR CHRIST, GOD'S GLORY WILL BE REVEALED.



*Minister Anita P. Latin, A.S., B.S., MAT
Founder & Visionary*

Abounding Love Bible Ministry
PO Box 2053
San Francisco, CA 94126

—*Teaching point three:* **THERE ARE ONLY FIVE AREAS THAT SATAN CAN ATTACK**

1. SPIRITUALLY
2. PHYSICALLY
3. MENTALLY
4. RELATIONALLY
5. FINANCIALLY

ONCE YOU KNOW THE AREAS THAT SATAN IS ABLE TO OPPRESS YOU, ATTACK YOU, AND BIND YOU, YOU'RE MUCH BETTER EQUIPPED TO GUARD THOSE AREAS AT ALL TIMES WITH YOUR LIFE! NOTHING ELSE, OR SHOULD IS AY, EVERYTHING ELSE IN LIFE HANGS ON THESE FIVE CONCEPTS.

THESE ARE THE FIVE MOST IMPORTANT AREAS THAT MAKE UP A WHOLE OR COMPLETE INDIVIDUAL. IF ONE OF THESE AREAS IS LACKING IN ANY WAY, IS UNSTABLE OR OFF-KILTERED, IT WILL ULTIMATELY IMPACT THE OTHER FOUR AREAS. FOR EXAMPLE, IF YOUR SPIRITUALITY IS NOT 100%, IT WILL AFFECT YOU IN YOUR RELATIONSHIPS. IF YOUR FINANCES ARE NOT 100%, IT WILL AFFECT YOUR MENTAL STATE OF BEING. IF YOUR PHYSICALITY IS LESS THAN 100%, IT WILL IMPACT YOUR MENTAL STATE AND SO ONE. ALL OF THESE ARE HINGED ON EACH OTHER.

KNOW THAT IF SATAN IS ATTACKING IN ANY OF THOSE AREAS THAT HE HAD TO GET PERMISSION FROM GOD. YOU REMEMBER THE STORY OF JOB. DON'T YOU! SATAN RECOGNIZED THAT THERE WAS A HEDGE OF PROTECTION AROUND JOB. WHAT ABOUT YOU? IS YOUR HEDGE SATAN-PROOF?



Minister Anita P. Latin, A.S., B.S., MAT
Founder & Visionary

Abounding Love Bible Ministry
PO Box 2053
San Francisco, CA 94126

—Teaching point four: THE NATURE OF SUFFERING

1. SUFFERING IS **PAINFUL**. SUFFERING IS HARD; IT IS NEVER EASY. (I **PETER 1:6**) “WHEREIN YE GREATLY REJOICE, THOUGH NOW FOR A SEASON, IF NEED BE, YE ARE IN HEAVINESS THROUGH MANIFOLD TEMPTATIONS:”
2. SUFFERING IS **PERPLEXING**. SUFFERING IS SOMEWHAT MYSTERIOUS.
3. SUFFERING IS **PURPOSEFUL**. SUFFERING IS NOT WITHOUT MEANING IN SPITE OF ITS MYSTERY. (**ROMANS 8:28-29**) “²⁸AND WE KNOW THAT ALL THINGS WORK TOGETHER FOR GOOD TO THEM THAT LOVE GOD, TO THEM WHO ARE THE CALLED ACCORDING TO HIS PURPOSE. ²⁹FOR WHOM HE DID FOREKNOW, HE ALSO DID PREDESTINATE TO BE CONFORMED TO THE IMAGE OF HIS SON, THAT HE MIGHT BE THE FIRSTBORN AMONG MANY BRETHREN.
4. SUFFERING **PROVES** (TESTS) US. “TRIALS” IN (**JAMES 1:2**) “MY BRETHREN, COUNT IT ALL JOY WHEN YE FALL INTO DIVERS TEMPTATIONS; IS THE GREEK *PEIRASMOS* AND REFERS TO THAT WHICH EXAMINES, TESTS, AND PROVES THE CHARACTER OR INTEGRITY OF SOMETHING.
5. SUFFERING IS A **PROCESS**. IT TAKES TIME. (**ROMANS 5:3-4**) “³AND NOT ONLY SO, BUT WE GLORY IN TRIBULATIONS ALSO: KNOWING THAT TRIBULATION WORKETH PATIENCE; ⁴AND PATIENCE, EXPERIENCE; AND EXPERIENCE, HOPE:



- (JAMES 1:3-4) “³KNOWING THIS, THAT THE TRYING OF YOUR FAITH WORKETH PATIENCE. ⁴BUT LET PATIENCE HAVE HER PERFECT WORK, THAT YE MAY BE PERFECT AND ENTIRE, WANTING NOTHING.
6. SUFFERING IS A **PURIFIER**. NONE OF US WILL EVER BE PERFECT IN THIS LIFE. (**PHILIPPIANS 3:12**) SAYS, “NOT AS THOUGH I HAD ALREADY ATTAINED, EITHER WERE ALREADY PERFECT: BUT I FOLLOW AFTER, IF THAT I MAY APPREHEND THAT FOR WHICH ALSO I AM APPREHENDED OF CHRIST JESUS.”
 7. SUFFERING **PROVIDES OPPORTUNITY** FOR GOD’S GLORY, YOUR TRANSFORMATION, TESTIMONY, AND MINISTRY.
 8. SUFFERING **REQUIRES YOUR COOPERATION** FROM THE RIGHT RESPONSE IF YOU ARE TO BE SUCCESSFUL IN ACCOMPLISHING GOD’S PURPOSES.
 9. SUFFERING IS **PREDETERMINED** OR APPOINTED. (**1 PETER 4:12**) BELOVED, DO NOT BE SURPRISED AT THE FIERY ORDEAL AMONG YOU, WHICH COMES UPON YOU FOR YOUR TESTING, AS THOUGH SOME STRANGE THING WERE HAPPENING TO YOU;”
 10. SUFFERING IS **INEVITABLE**. (**1 THESSALONIANS 3:3**) SAYS, “THAT NO MAN SHOULD BE MOVED BY THESE AFFLICTIONS: FOR YOURSELVES KNOW THAT WE ARE APPOINTED THEREUNTO.”
 11. SUFFERING IS A **STRUGGLE**. IT’S GOING TO BE A BATTLE ALL THE WAY.



*Minister Anita P. Latin, A.S., B.S., MAT
Founder & Visionary*

Abounding Love Bible Ministry
PO Box 2053
San Francisco, CA 94126

JOSEPH, MOSES, JOB AND DANIEL ARE FOUR BIBLICAL CHARACTERS WHO DEMONSTRATED THE POSITIVE BENEFITS PRODUCED BY SUFFERING. NAMELY, GOD'S GLORY!

JOSEPH WENT FROM BEING:

- PART OF THE FAMILY
- PUT IN THE PIT
- SOLD TO POTAPHER
- PRINCE OF EGYPT

MOSES WENT FROM BEING A:

- BABY IN AN ARK
- PRINCE IN THE PALACE
- SLAVE IN THE FIELD
- LEADER OF THE ISRAELITES

JOB WENT FROM BEING A:

- PEACEFUL MAN
- PRAISING MAN
- PRAYING MAN
- PROSPERING MAN

DANIEL WAS:

- PUT IN CHARGE OF THE WHOLE COUNTRY BY KING DARIUS
- PUNISHED FOR HIS FAITHFULNESS TO GOD
- BECAUSE OF HIS DELIVERANCE, HE WAS ABLE TO PERSUADE THE KING TO SERVE THE LORD GOD



*Minister Anita P. Latin, A.S., B.S., MAT
Founder & Visionary*

Abounding Love Bible Ministry
PO Box 2053
San Francisco, CA 94126

—*Teaching point five: AS CHRISTIAN WOMEN, YOU MUST OBEY THE CALL TO SUFFER*

YOU NOW KNOW WHAT AREAS OF SUFFERING THERE ARE AND THE REASON AND NATURE OF SUFFERING. PREPARE TO BE RIDICULED, REBUKED AND REJECTED FOR THE CAUSE OF CHRIST. **(ROMANS 8:16-18)** “¹⁶THE SPIRIT ITSELF BEARETH WITNESS WITH OUR SPIRIT, THAT WE ARE THE CHILDREN OF GOD: ¹⁷AND IF CHILDREN, THEN HEIRS; HEIRS OF GOD, AND JOINT-HEIRS WITH CHRIST; IF SO BE THAT WE SUFFER WITH HIM, THAT WE MAY BE ALSO GLORIFIED TOGETHER. ¹⁸FOR I RECKON THAT THE SUFFERINGS OF THIS PRESENT TIME ARE NOT WORTHY TO BE COMPARED WITH THE GLORY WHICH SHALL BE REVEALED IN US.

I NEED YOU TO REMEMBER THE FOUR CONCEPTS YOU MUST UNDERSTAND IN ORDER TO GO THROUGH THE PROCESS AND ACHIEVE VICTORY FROM YOUR STRIVES AND SUFFERING:

1. THE **PRESENCE** OF GOD – GOD REVEALS HIMSELF IN THE MIDST OF YOUR SUFFERING.
2. THE **PROVISION** OF GOD – GOD PROVIDES FOR YOU IN THE TIME OF NEED.
3. THE **POWER** OF GOD – GOD HAS POWER FOR THOSE WHO FEEL THEY ARE SINKING...
4. THE **PURPOSE** OF GOD – WHEN YOU ARE WALKING IN THE PURPOSE OF GOD, **NO WEAPON FORMED AGAINST YOU SHALL PROSPER.**

FROM THE BEGINNING OF CREATION, IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN ABOUT GOD. IT’S NEVER BEEN ABOUT YOU. AND IT NEVER WILL! GOD IS CALLING FOR CHRISTIAN WOMEN WHO WILL CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR THOSE WHO REVILE YOU, PERSECUTE YOU, AND SAY ALL MANNER OF EVIL AGAINST YOU **FALSELY**, FOR HIS **SAKE**. REJOICE, AND BE EXCEEDING GLAD: FOR GREAT IS YOUR REWARD IN HEAVEN:



*Minister Anita P. Latin, A.S., B.S., MAT
Founder & Visionary*

Abounding Love Bible Ministry
PO Box 2053
San Francisco, CA 94126

NOW...

WHEN THEY LIE ON YOU... **REJOICE!**

WHEN THEY SCANDALIZE YOUR GOOD NAME... **REJOICE!**

WHEN THEY STAB YOU IN YOUR BACK... **REJOICE!**

WHEN THEY DON'T WANT TO HEAR YOU... **REJOICE!**

WHEN THEY KNOCK YOU DOWN... **REJOICE!**

WHEN THEY DON'T SPEAK TO YOU... **REJOICE!**

WHEN THEY TRY TO SABATOGUE YOUR LEADERSHIP... **REJOICE!**

WHEN THEY ATTEMPT TO DISSUADE OTHERS FROM DOING RIGHT...

REJOICE!

WHEN THEY SET YOU UP TO FAIL... **REJOICE!**

WHEN YOUR BOSS OVERLOOKS YOU FOR THE NEXT PROMOTION...

REJOICE!

WHEN THEY REPOSSES YOUR CAR... **REJOICE!**

WHEN YOUR HOUSE GOES INTO FORECLOSURE... **REJOICE!**

WHEN YOUR LOVED ONE DIES... **REJOICE!**

WHEN YOU GET A BAD DOCTOR'S REPORT... **REJOICE!**

WHEN YOUR SPOUSE DECIDES, AFTER 30 YEARS, THAT HE NO LONGER

WANTS TO BE MARRIED TO YOU... **REJOICE!**

AND WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT THE SUFFERING, PAIN AND ANQUISH THAT JESUS CHRIST WENT THROUGH FOR HIS FATHER'S SAKE BECAUSE OF YOUR SIN & MINE... **REJOICE!**



*Minister Anita P. Latin, A.S., B.S., MAT
Founder & Visionary*

Abounding Love Bible Ministry
PO Box 2053
San Francisco, CA 94126

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE:

I PETER 2:21

I PETER 1:6

ROMANS 8:28-29

JAMES 1:2

ROMANS 5:3-4

JAMES 1:3-4

PHILIPPIANS 3:12

1 PETER 4:12

I THESSALONIANS 3:3

ROMANS 8:16-18



*Minister Anita P. Latin, A.S., B.S., MAT
Founder & Visionary*

Abounding Love Bible Ministry
PO Box 2053
San Francisco, CA 94126

REVIEW

How do you learn how to endure your suffering?

Through _____ and _____.

If God _____ you _____ it; He will _____ you _____ it.

How many reasons are there for suffering? _____

Name them:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

What are some of the characteristics of the nature of suffering?

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____