



Communion Weekend February 2014 (Selected Scriptures)

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Intro: This past week I had a two day board meeting with SRI. The first hour of our meeting was spent going around the room and each board member sharing personal stories about their lives, and afterward we prayed for one another. Every single person had some kind of trial they were dealing with, or had recently dealt with. I found that very interesting, because each person knows and loves the Lord.

See Isa.53:2-3a.

- Grew like a root out of dry ground
- No beauty or majesty to attract us to him
- Nothing in his appearance that we should desire him
- Despised and rejected by men
- A man of sorrows
 - Wept at the tomb of Lazarus
 - Betrayed by one of his closest followers
- Familiar with suffering

Matthew 11:7-11a, 2-6

Could it be the more highly God thinks of us, the greater our trials and testing may be?

Job 1:1, 6-11; 2:1-3, 9-10.

Acts 9:16 I will show him how much he must suffer for my name.

Proves our faith to be genuine.

- I Peter 1:7

Provides opportunities for witness/salvation.

- Gen.45:5...it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you...8 So then, it was not you who sent me here, but God.
- Daniel 3:29 Therefore I decree that the people of any nation or language who say anything against the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego be cut into pieces and their houses be turned into piles of rubble, for no other God can save in this way.
- Daniel 6:25-27 Then King Darius wrote to all the peoples, nations and men of every language throughout the land: May you prosper greatly! I issue a decree that in every part of my kingdom people must fear and reverence the God of Daniel. For he is the living God and he endures forever; his kingdom will not be destroyed, his dominion will never end. He rescues and he saves; he performs great signs and wonders in the heavens and on the earth. He has rescued Daniel from the power of the lions.
- Gal.4:13 As you know, it was because of an illness that I first preached the gospel to you.
- Phil.1:12
- Acts 16:16-34

No growth without suffering.

- Rom.5:3-4
- Heb.5:8
Encourages other saints to suffer in the will of God.
- Phil.1:14
Helps to keep us humble.
- II Cor.12:7
Aids in keeping the power of God upon our lives.
- II Cor.12:8-10
May help us to get right with God.
- Psalm 119: 67 Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I obey your word.

Provides fellowship with Christ not possible any other way.

- Phil.3:10 I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings...