

Joyful Suffering – Romans 5:3-11
Questions for Reflection
PBC Community Groups

Based on the sermon's focus on Romans 5:1-11 and how suffering produces confident hope in God, how might these ten questions help you apply these truths to your life?

1. Examining Your Faith Response When difficulties arise in your life, what is your first reaction? Do you instinctively turn toward God in trust, or do you find yourself questioning His goodness? What does this reveal about whether you're truly trusting Jesus or just believing facts about Him?

2. Rejoicing in Real Time Think about a current struggle you're facing. How can you practically "rejoice" in this situation without minimizing the pain or being dishonest about how hard it is? What would it look like to acknowledge both the difficulty and God's purposes this week?

3. Recognizing God's Work Looking back at past hardships, can you identify ways that God used suffering to produce endurance, character, or hope in you? How might this perspective change the way you view your current challenges?

4. Evaluating Your Endurance Are you currently enduring suffering in a way that honors God, or have you begun responding sinfully (through bitterness, complaint, withdrawal, or compromise)? What specific adjustments do you need to make in your attitudes or actions?

5. Testing Your Confidence When suffering comes, do you doubt God's love for you? What gospel truths from Romans 5:6-10 can you rehearse to remind yourself of the objective proof of God's love, even when you don't feel it?

6. Experiencing the Spirit's Ministry Have you experienced God's love being "poured into your heart" by the Holy Spirit during difficult times? How can you be more attentive to the Spirit's comforting and strengthening presence in your current circumstances?

7. Choosing the Narrow Way Jesus said the path to life is "hard" (the same word Paul uses for "suffering"). Are there areas where you're tempted to choose the easier, more comfortable path rather than the narrow way of obedience? What would faithful endurance look like in that situation?

8. Perspective on Different Types of Pain The sermon mentions that life hurts, sin hurts, relationships hurt, ministry hurts, and the gospel hurts. Which of these categories of suffering are you currently experiencing? How does knowing that suffering is normal for believers change your perspective?

9. Trusting God's Goodness 1 Peter 4:19 says to "entrust [your] souls to a faithful Creator while doing good." In what specific area of suffering are you tempted to rely on your own understanding rather than trusting God's wisdom and goodness? What would it look like to truly entrust this to Him?

10. Joy as Evidence Paul says "we rejoice in our sufferings" as evidence of genuine faith. If someone observed your response to current difficulties, would they see evidence of real, saving

faith—or would they see you responding just like everyone else? What one change could you make this week to demonstrate gospel-shaped joy in your circumstances?