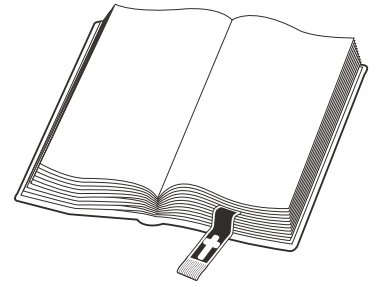


# Suffering Opens Doors of Opportunity



*“You are my hiding place and my shield; I hope in Your word.” Psalm 119:114*

## Number 71 in the series “The Joy of Obeying God’s Word”

Beloved, the bad news is that like many of you, I have had a lot of suffering in my life. The good news is that because of all the suffering in my life, the Lord constantly opens doors of opportunity for me to speak to hurting people. As I speak in churches and at retreats throughout the United States and internationally, I meet people of all ages with lives full of pain. Many people thought that if they accepted Christ as their Savior, all their pain and problems would be gone. Then they found out that their thinking was wrong.

Putting our trust in Christ as our Savior does not mean that our problems will end or that we will have no more suffering or pain. Being a Christian means Jesus paid for our sins when He died on the cross. His blood washes us clean from all guilt and shame. His death and resurrection set us free from Satan and gives us a new life as children of God! Becoming a Christian means we have eternal life with Christ. It means we can read God’s Word, the Bible, for help and wisdom for every decision in life. It means we can talk to Jesus and have assurance that He hears us and will help us. It means Jesus will daily encourage, strengthen, and love us and give us His AMAZING GRACE for every painful situation we encounter in life. It means the Holy Spirit will give us His power and strength to obey God daily.

Being a Christian means that the Holy Spirit lives within us. He convicts us when we sin, and He gives us His grace to repent and be forgiven. It means that we can have peace and joy in the Lord in the midst of painful situations. Beloved, I could speak forever on the nature and

faithfulness of our God. Today I want to remind you that in times of suffering, no matter how bad it is or how long it lasts, our God has not failed us! Our Lord did not deceive us. All through the Bible, He makes it clear that His people suffer. Over and over again, Jesus warned those who followed Him that there would be pain, sorrow, and persecution.

2 Corinthians 1 tells us that just as Christ helps us in our times of tests, trials, and suffering, we are to help others. Since the terrorist attack on September 11, 2001, the Lord has opened so many doors of opportunity for me to tell others of Christ’s love for them. As a child growing up in World War II living in the terror of bombs night and day, dead bodies, and burning buildings, I have experienced the horror of war!

Beloved, I am encouraging you to use the suffering in your life to give you compassion for others. Tell them about Jesus and how He has helped you. Tell them about His faithfulness to you in your times of tests, trials, and pain. Unbeliever, today would be a good day for you to acknowledge you are a sinner, to put your trust in Christ as your Savior, and to surrender your life to Him. He loves you, and He wants to help you.

— *Janice McBride*

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*All scripture is taken from the New King James Version of the Bible.*

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