



Union Baptist Church of Cincinnati
405 West Seventh Street
Cincinnati, OH 45203
(513) 381-3858
www.union-baptist.net
Rev. Dr. Orlando Yates, Pastor

PARTAKERS OF HIS SUFFERINGS

“...but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ’s sufferings...” (1 Peter 4:13).

If you are going to be used by God, He will take you through a number of experiences that are not meant for you personally at all. They are designed to make you useful in His hands, and to enable you to understand what takes place in the lives of others. Because of this process, you will never be surprised by what comes your way. You say, “Oh, I can’t deal with that person.” Why can’t you? God gave you sufficient opportunities to learn from Him about that problem; but you turned away, not heeding the lesson, because it seemed foolish to spend your time that way.

The sufferings of Christ were not those of ordinary people. He suffered “according to the will of God” (1 Peter 4:19), having different point of view of sufferings from ours. It is only through our relationship with Jesus Christ that we can understand what God is after in His dealing with us. When it comes to suffering, it is part of our Christian culture to want to know God’s purpose beforehand. **In the history of the Christian church, the tendency has been to avoid being identified with the sufferings of Jesus Christ.** People have sought to carry our God’s orders through a shortcut of their own. God’s way is always the way of suffering – the way of the “long road home.”

Are we partakers of Christ’s sufferings?” Are we prepared for God to stamp out our personal ambitions? Are we prepared for God to destroy our individual decisions by supernaturally transforming them? It will mean not knowing why God is taking us that way, because knowing would make us spiritually proud. We never realize at the time what God is putting us through – we go through it more or less without understanding. Then suddenly we come to a place of enlightenment, and realize – **“God has strengthened me and I didn’t even know it!” AMEN.**

**My Utmost For His Highest
by Oswald Chambers**

“And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.” Matthew 28:18 – 20

