

justice! Thank God, "He has not dealt with us according to our sins, nor rewarded us according to our iniquities." Instead, He has poured out His mercy and benevolence to us!

3. How should believers respond to suffering caused by other human beings?

They should blame those other persons, not God, for the suffering; and they should not respond in kind and seek to personally inflict punishment on evildoers. Rather, they should leave all vengeance and final punishment in God's hands, knowing that He will repay and that no one will finally get away with sin. And they should leave temporal punishment (punishment in this life) in the hands of the divinely-ordained agencies of human government.

4. How should believers respond to suffering caused by Satan?

They should remember that Christ has won a decisive victory over Satan, that the Holy Spirit who indwells us is infinitely greater than Satan, and that by faith we are able to resist the devil and his temptations.

As far as physical suffering from Satan is concerned, we know that he has the power to afflict us, but that he cannot get past the protective hedge with which God has surrounded us except by God's permission. We should remember that God rules and overrules even in Satan's domain!

5. How should believers respond to suffering sometimes occasioned by God's corrective discipline?

They should examine themselves to see what is calling forth the discipline. If they are cherishing or hiding some sin, they should repent of it, confess it, forsake it, and live for God. If there is no evidence of a besetting sin or chronic problem, then their suffering may not be connected with discipline at all, but may simply be a result of the Fall. In such a case, they should wait on the Lord for such relief and deliverance as he is pleased to give at the present time.

6. How should believers respond to God's use of suffering to achieve His purposes in their lives?

They should try to look beyond the suffering to God's primary purpose – to mold them more perfectly in Christ's likeness. And they should try to use their suffering, if possible, to become more effective servants of God.