

Philippians 1:27 (NLT)

²⁷ Above all, you must live as citizens of heaven, conducting yourselves in a manner worthy of the Good News about Christ. Then, whether I come and see you again or only hear about you, I will know that you are standing side by side, fighting together for the faith, which is the Good News.

Philippians 1:29-30 (NLT)

²⁹ For you have been given not only the privilege of trusting in Christ but also the privilege of suffering for him. ³⁰ We are in this struggle together...

Philippians 2:1 (NLT)

¹ Is there any encouragement from belonging to Christ? Any comfort from his love? Any fellowship together in the Spirit? Are your hearts tender and compassionate?

Philippians 2:2 (NLT)

Then make me truly happy by agreeing wholeheartedly with each other, loving one another, and working together with one mind and purpose.

**Live as CITIZENS
of Heaven**

Philippians 1:27 – 2:4

²⁷ Just **ONE thing**: **Live your life** in a manner
worthy of the gospel of Christ... (HCS)

²⁷...I will know that you **STAND FIRM** in one **spirit**, **CONTENDING** as one man for the **FAITH** of the gospel ²⁸**WITHOUT** being frightened in any way by those who oppose you...

Walking Worthy means we...

- Stand **FIRM** - Refuse to be **MOVED**
- Stand **FEARLESSLY** - we are Not **ALONE**
- Strive and Compete **TOGETHER** - Side **BY** Side

Hebrews 11:16 (NIV)

...they were longing for a better country - a heavenly one. Therefore **God is not ASHAMED to be called their God**, for He has prepared a city for them.

The fact that enemies cause **Believers** to experience the **second gift** indicates that they have **truly received the first.** Ellsworth

29 For it has been **GRANTED to you** on behalf
of Christ not only to **BELIEVE on Him,**
but also to **SUFFER for Him**

Acts 5:40-42 (NLT)

⁴⁰ ...They called in the apostles and had them flogged. Then they **ordered them NEVER again to speak in the Name of Jesus**, and they let them go. ⁴¹ The apostles left the high council **REJOICING** that God had counted them **worthy to suffer disgrace** for the Name of Jesus.

42 And every day, in the Temple and from house to house, **they CONTINUED to teach and preach this message:**
Jesus is the Messiah.

Benefits from Suffering: LABN

- takes our eyes off of earthly **COMFORTS**
- weeds out superficial believers
- **Strengthens** the faith of those who endure
- serves as an **EXAMPLE** for others

Romans 5:1-5 (NIV)

¹ Therefore, since we have been **JUSTIFIED**
through FAITH, we have **peace with God**
through our Lord Jesus Christ,

² through whom we have gained access by
**Faith INTO this grace in which we
now stand.** And we rejoice in the
HOPE of the **glory of God.**

³ Not only so, but **we also rejoice** in our **SUFFERINGS**, because we know that **suffering produces perseverance**; ⁴ perseverance, character; and character, **hope**.

⁵ And **HOPE** does not disappoint us,
because **God has poured out HIS love**
into our hearts by the Holy Spirit,
whom He has given us.

29 For you have been given not only the privilege of trusting in Christ but **ALSO** the privilege of suffering for Him. (NLT)

Observations...

- **WHEN** we suffer for our faith it does **NOT** mean that we have done something wrong
- At times God uses suffering to **BUILD** Character

- Paul never urges Christians to **SEEK** Suffering
- Suffering is **NOT** a way of Paying for our sins
- Remember we **NEVER** have to Suffer alone

2 Timothy 3:11–12 (NLT)

You know all about how I was persecuted in Antioch, Iconium, and Lystra - but the Lord Rescued me from all of it.

Yes, and **everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.**

HUMILITY does not mean putting ourselves
down but rather lifting others up. HNTC

27 Just **ONE thing**: Live your life in a manner
worthy of the gospel of Christ.

Then, **whether I come** and see you or
am absent, I will hear about you... (HCS)

It's easy to sing –
When there's nothing to bring me down
But what will I say - When I'm held to the flame
Like I am right now

I know You're able and I know You can
Save through the fire with Your mighty hand
But even if You don't - My hope is You alone

But God, when You choose –
To leave mountains unmovable
Oh give me the strength to be able to sing
It is well with my soul

I know the sorrow, and I know the hurt
Would all go away if You'd just say the word
But EVEN if You don't - My hope is **You alone**

You've been faithful, You've been good
All of my days - Jesus, **I will cling to You**
Come what may