

Know How to Suffer

Just as our Lord and Saviour suffered, so Paul suffered – and so we will suffer if we follow in their footsteps. Church planting, like all gospel work, and perhaps particularly so, will involve us in suffering. Are we prepared for that? Do we have a robust theology of suffering that will see us through hard times and help us understand and accept whatever God allows?

Philip Moore has been pastoring and planting churches in the east of Paris for the past 12 years. He is currently European director for Acts 29, working to build relationships between local church-planting churches and church planters all over Europe. With over 50 countries and a population of over 700 million people the European continent, once the most Christianised in the world, is now a mission field. It is Philip's privilege, as European director of A29, to see what God is doing in our continent, and to encourage church-planting initiatives from Ireland to Turkey, from Denmark to Italy through assessment, coaching, training, and supporting of church planters and church-planting churches. Philip is married to Rachel, and they have 5 children.

J. D. Gilmore was born in Italy, where his parents were missionaries. God's grace opened his eyes to the good news of the gospel as a teenager. J. D. and his wife are passionate about the spread of the gospel in Italy, where they have been involved in church planting for many years. He now coordinates Impatto (Acts 29 in Italy) as well as being involved in setting up gospel-centred movements in Italy and the Balkans.

I. Distinguishing types of suffering

A. Normal

B. Abnormal

C. Unjust

D. Just

E. For righteousness

II. Suffering in ministry | Acts and the epistles

A. Why did Paul suffer?

B. In what ways did he suffer?

C. How did his suffering benefit those to whom he ministered?

D. In what ways were his sufferings in ministry occasions for spiritual growth for Paul?

E. What resources were available to Paul to help him process and endure his suffering?

Suggested Readings:

How Long, O Lord?: Reflections on Suffering and Evil : DA Carson

Walking with God through Pain and Suffering : Timothy Keller