

Learning Suffering

Suffering is universal. But not all suffering is the same. How can we distinguish between different sorts of suffering? And how do we learn through suffering? Specifically as we embark on ministry, what kind of suffering should we expect? As we come to answer these questions, we will learn how to walk through suffering ourselves and how to walk with others as they suffer.

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.

I. Distinguishing types of suffering

A. Normal

B. Abnormal

C. Unjust

D. Just

E. For righteousness

II. Suffering in ministry

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