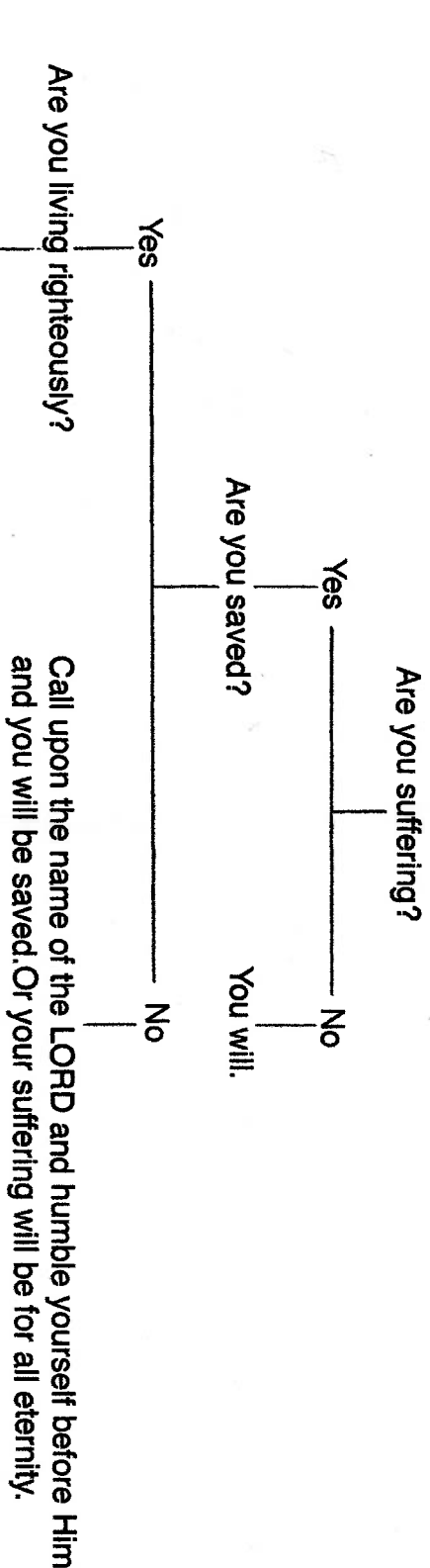


Decision Tree of Suffering



Determine the cause and purpose of your suffering.

- Ultimately Satan plays a role in the suffering of the Christian. He accused and afflicted the righteous Job. He entered Judas and lead to the betrayal and crucifixion of Jesus. (footnote 1)

- Your suffering may be a result of the fall eg. disease, aging related illnesses, etc. (footnote 2)
- Persecution for the Gospel or because of your faith. (footnote 3)
- Ultimately, since Christ was made perfect through suffering (Heb. 2:10) we are made Christ-like through suffering. (footnote 4)

You are under discipline. Confess and repent. If relevant, make restitution, ie mitigate the consequences of your sin. Restitution is different than penance. However, if in your sinning you broke the just laws of the land, be prepared to pay a fine or be incarcerated.

Footnote 1. 1 Peter 5:6-11. God cares for you and will even use Satan's plans to make you Christ-like. Our job is to call upon God, resist Satan and reach out to Christians who are under attack and suffering.
 Footnote 2. John 9:1-11. As with the blind man, your illness can be used to God's glory. Jonl Eareckson Tada has been used by God through her disability to glorify Him and to reach millions.
 Footnote 3. Heb. 11 & 12:1&2. Persecution for our relationship to Jesus Christ places us in the company of some awesome people.
 Footnote 4-> In the process of becoming Christ-like we will suffer. **Do Not Suffer Alone. Gather Christian friends to pray and comfort you. Be a Christian friend who prays for and comforts others.**