



# *Williams Chapel Church*

## *Chief Apostle Kimberly L. Nixon, Pastor*



*Mailing Address: P.O. Box 617, Spring Lake, N.C. 28390  
1230 N. Bragg Blvd., Spring Lake, N.C. 28390*

*Phone: 910-436-3186*

*Fax: 910-436-6347*

### **Job 23:8-14 KJV**

Behold, I go forward, but he is not there; and backward, but I cannot perceive him: [9] On the left hand, where he doth work, but I cannot behold him: he hideth himself on the right hand, that I cannot see him: [10] But he knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold. [11] My foot hath held his steps, his way have I kept, and not declined. [12] Neither have I gone back from the commandment of his lips; I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary food. [13] But he is in one mind, and who can turn him? and what his soul desireth, even that he doeth. [14] For he performeth the thing that is appointed for me: and many such things are with him.

### **2 Corinthians 12:7-10 KJV**

And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure. [8] For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. [9] And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. [10] Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.

## **Suffering and Human Striving** ***When Life Hurts and God Seems Silent***

**Suffering and Human Striving** is a deeply important theme; both biblically and pastorally because it addresses what we *do* when life hurts and God seems silent.

### **The Tension: Pain vs. Effort**

Every believer eventually faces this question:

*"When I am suffering, what is my role and what is God's?"*

Human instinct says:

- *Fix it*
- *Control it*
- *Push harder*

But Scripture often redirects us.

## **The Danger of Human Striving**

Human striving is not simply effort—it is:

### **Effort disconnected from dependence on God**

It shows up as:

- *Trying to **earn what can only be given***
- *Forcing outcomes God has not released*
- *Carrying burdens God never assigned*

This directly conflicts with what is established in Ephesians 2:8–9:  
“Not of works, lest any man should boast”

## **What Suffering Reveals**

Suffering has a way of exposing what striving hides.

It reveals:

- Where we place our **trust**
- What we believe about **control**
- Whether our faith is in **God or in our ability to manage outcomes**

In suffering, striving often increases because we are trying to regain control over what we cannot fix.

## **The Biblical Pattern: Not Striving, but Surrender**

Scripture does not call us to passivity—but to **dependent participation**.

### **Consider:**

- **Rest over striving**  
“Be still...” (Psalm 46:10)
- **Grace over effort**  
“My grace is sufficient...” (2 Corinthians 12:9)
- **Trust over control**  
“Trust in the Lord...” (Proverbs 3:5)

## **The Role of Faith in Suffering**

Faith in suffering is not:

- Forcing outcomes
- Performing for God
- Earning relief

**Faith is trusting God when outcomes are unclear...**

It says; "Even here, I am held."

## **God's Work vs. Our Response**

### **God's Role**

- *Initiates salvation*
- *Sustains grace*
- *Works transformation*
- *Brings ultimate deliverance*

("Faithful is He...who also will do it" – 1 Thessalonians 5:24)

### **Our Role**

- *Trust*
- *Yield*
- *Obey*
- *Endure*

Not to *earn*—but to *align*

## **The Hidden Purpose of Suffering**

Suffering is not meaningless. It often accomplishes what striving cannot:

- **Breaks self-reliance**
- Deepens **intimacy with God**
- Produces **spiritual formation**
- Aligns us with **eternal perspective**

## **A Powerful Truth**

"Striving tries to produce what only grace can release.

Suffering reveals that what we need cannot be manufactured—it must be received."

"God does not use suffering to push us into performance—He uses it to pull us into dependence."

## **A Leadership Lens**

For those who lead while suffering:

Striving says: *"I must hold everything together."*

Grace says: *"God is holding me together."*

Sometimes suffering is God's way of **realigning us before advancing us.**  
"In suffering, God is not asking for more effort. He is inviting deeper trust.  
What striving tries to fix, surrender allows God to transform."

April 29, 2026