

## Types of Suffering Found Throughout Scripture

- 1) Universal Suffering – Genesis 3:14-19  
From the time Adam, the world has been marred by the curse of sin which has caused all that we know to be affected by this suffering.
- 2) Demonic Suffering – Matthew 8:28-34  
There is a spiritual battle that is going on behind the scenes all the time. Though limited in their authority, the demonic world can cause great suffering in people's lives.
- 3) Victim Suffering – Genesis 37:12-36  
The book of Romans calls people "inventors of evil" and their depraved mind has caused countless attacks on innocent lives.
- 4) Cultural Suffering – Deuteronomy 1:19-46  
Two babies born in two different countries will face two different levels of suffering. This type of suffering is never faced alone but in community.
- 5) Disciplinary Suffering – Hebrews 12:1-13  
Sometimes suffering is part of the maturing process of a believer, to point them to God and give them firsthand experience in the sufficiency of Christ.
- 6) Substitutionary Suffering – 1 John 2:2  
When someone bears the suffering intended for another, in order to satisfy the punishment that they deserve.
- 7) Empathetic Suffering – 2 Corinthians 1:23-2:4  
Often experienced in the heart of a parent when their child is heading towards foreseeable pain.
- 8) Testimonial Suffering – John 11:1-44  
There are times when God allows suffering to happen in a believer's life for the sole purpose of pointing others to Him. When people see someone walk through pain with hope, it often causes their heart to seek after the source of that hope.
- 9) Providential Suffering – Jeremiah 20:7-18  
Similarly to Testimonial Suffering, this type of suffering grows other people's faith. Worship happens more in the lives of surrounding people because of the suffering allowed in one life.
- 10) Warning Suffering – 2 Corinthians 7:8-13  
The simplest form of this suffering is the physical pain that happens in your body prior to a major, life-threatening issue.
- 11) Mysterious Suffering – Job  
Though many sufferings have a definitive purpose, we are not promised to ever know the reason why we experience pain and suffering in our lives.
- 12) Sin Suffering – Acts 5:1-10  
When we sin, there are often negative effects of that sin that we experience as a result.
- 13) Consequential Suffering – Matthew 7:24-27  
Many of the warnings in Proverbs are attempting to curb this suffering. It may be a completely amoral decision, however, it has lasting implications on our present lives.
- 14) End Times Suffering – Revelation  
We have yet to experience this type of suffering but, we are warned about its approach in the Bible.