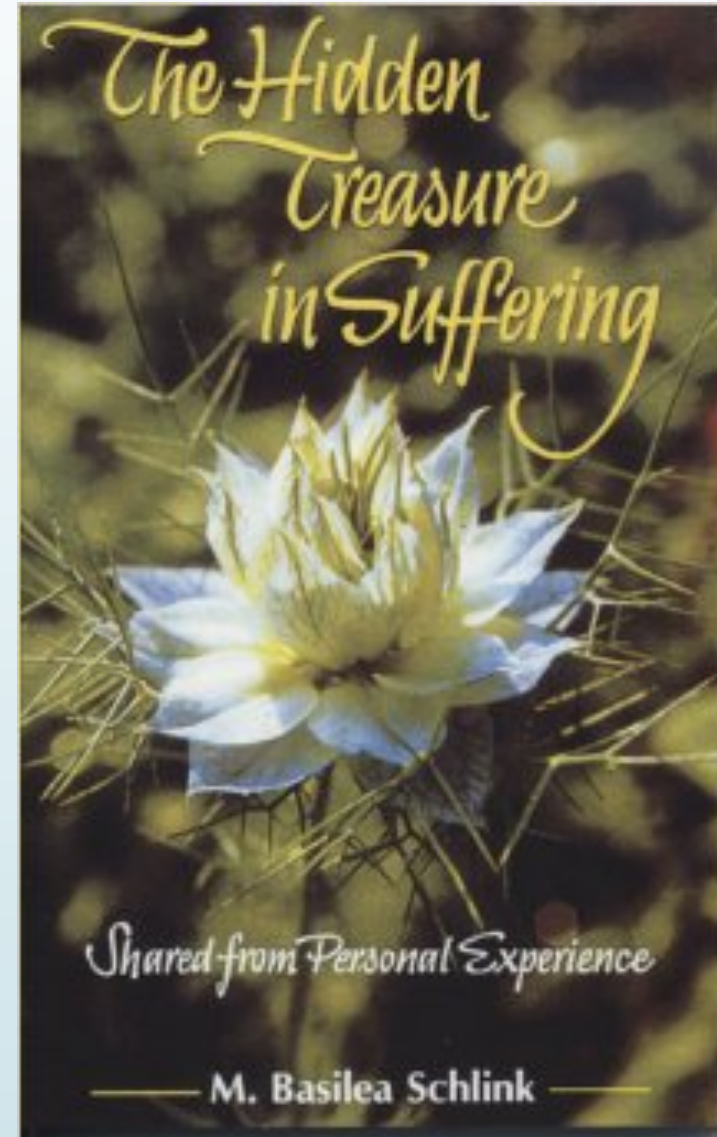


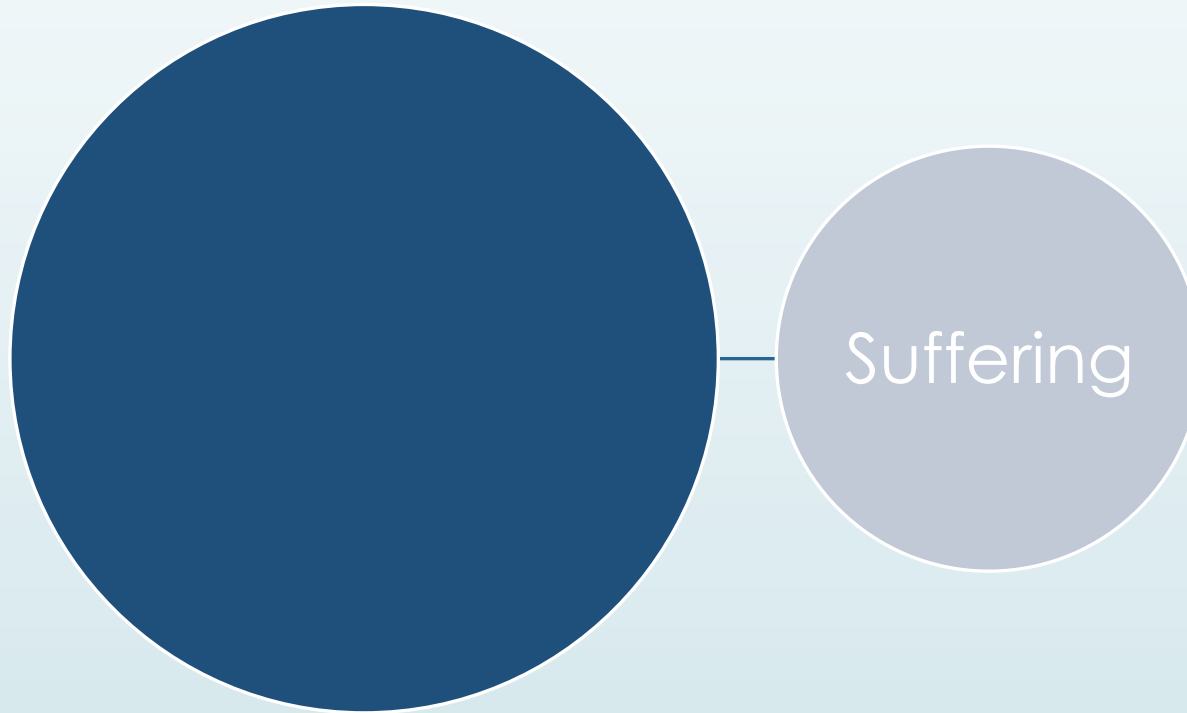


# The Hidden Treasure

M. Basilea Schlink



# Suffering



- Cares
- Fear
- Illness
- Weariness
- Loneliness
- Inner Conflict
- Personality Problems
- Unanswered Prayers
- Growing Old
- Want and Need
- Fear of Death
- Unfair treatment
- Facing Hatred and Slander



# Cares



- ▶ Workload, Lack of time and strength, desires, etc.
- ▶ Humanly, justifiable
- ▶ Depressing if magnify
- ▶ Mountains of cares
- ▶ God has taken everything into consideration
- ▶ True father never leaves his children without help
- ▶ Praise

How I thanks You, my Father!  
Your help will surely come.  
You will not leave me in the lurch  
But provide a solution to my worries.



# Strained relationships



- Unbearable life
- Suffering immeasurable
- No solution, no way out
- Bitterness crept into my heart
- Give up trying
- No way of communicating
- You that are the one who has to change
- Pray faithfully for a contrite heart
- Love does not keep account of the wrongs
- Merciful love for that person who made life so hard

Praise God for letting us reach the end of our resources in our relationship with others and for giving us light to see our sin and guilt.



# Fear

- Afraid of ...
- Fearful by nature
- Fear ruins everything
- Fear can dominate us to the degree that we are unwilling to accept hardships and say 'Yes, Father'

He who is peace itself wants to give you this wonderful peace as a gift. You can trust Him. And when you are faced with fear, this is the precious moment to claim this precious gift.

- Fear will turn into courage if we believe that Jesus will come to us in the midst of our fear.
- "Take heart, it is I; have no fear"
- In times of fear, everyday life: primary concern should be that **God can be for us**
- God will then come to us, and His coming marks the solution
- We shall taste his peace as never before



# Inner Conflict

- ▶ You can no longer understand God's leadings and actions.
- ▶ Why God is silent? Why He doesn't intervene in my life and send help? Why is that world affairs nowadays evil is increasingly triumphant?
- ▶ You are tormented with doubts for the right decision, right track or dealt with someone the right way.
- ▶ Bring before Jesus all your inner conflict. Talk everything over with Him. Pray to Him. Jesus is waiting for you to turn to Him.
- ▶ "He leads me on the right path for his name's sake" (Psalms 23:3) (German Luther Bible)
- ▶ Realise that you cannot solve this problem yourself. Help will come only from the Lord.

My Father, I do not understand You,  
But I trust in Your love.

- ▶ Put trust in Him, wait a while, and you will see a deep meaning.
- ▶ God is preparing an outcome that will fill with wonder, for with Him suffering is never the end.



# Unanswered Prayers

- ▶ You have prayed to God in faith, but God's answer has not come.
- ▶ Is there something separating us from God? → prayer hindrance
- ▶ Our prayers not answered immediately
- ▶ God delays answering our prayers, because His plan is to grant us far more than the fulfillment of our request.
- ▶ Faith, patience and humble hearts
- ▶ Not always direct answers
- ▶ God always answers our prayers, though sometimes in a way that we do not understand Him at first, for His thoughts, plans and purposes are much greater than ours and far more wonderful!

One day You will answer my prayers, I trust You, my Father. No prayer in vain. You pay attention to every single one. This You promised in Your Word. And so answer will come.

# Suffering



Suffering


- Cares
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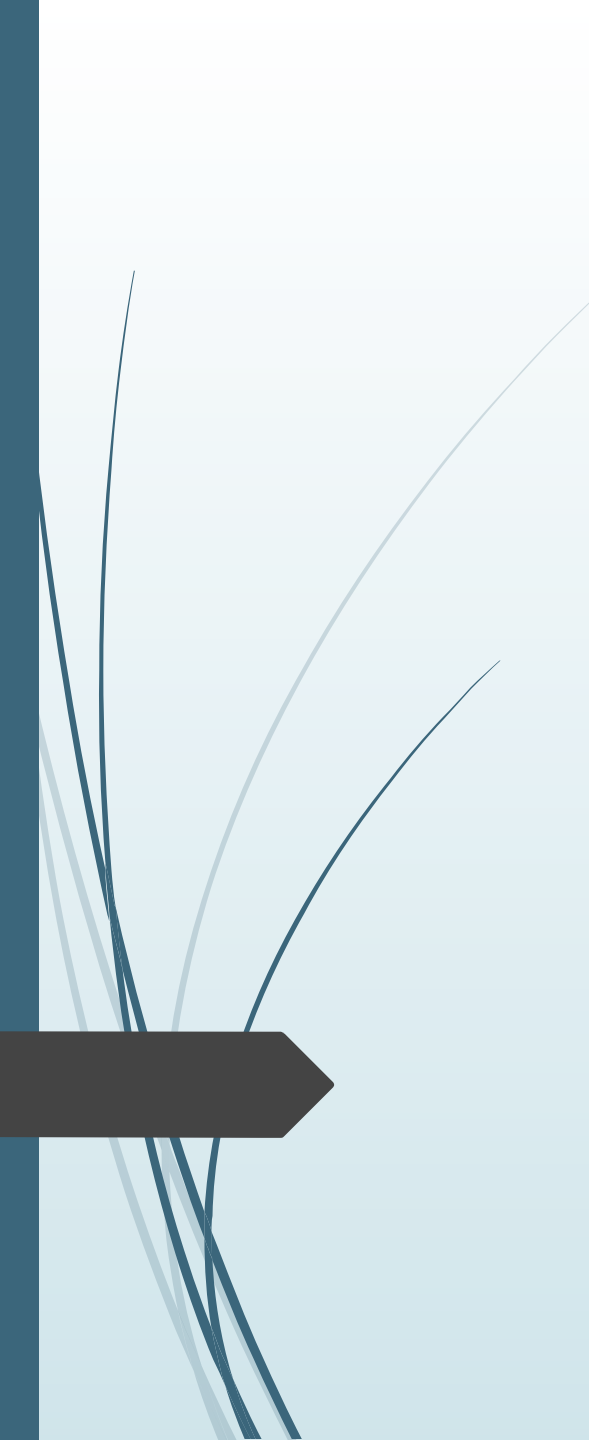
# Suffering

is like a field  
with buried treasure.  
For hidden in suffering  
are true joy and bliss, divine life,  
waiting to be discovered by us.



The sufferings of this present time  
are not worth comparing  
with the glory  
that is to be revealed to us.

Romans 8:18



This slight momentary affliction  
is preparing for us  
an eternal weight of glory  
beyond all comparison,  
because we look not  
to the things that are seen  
but to the things that are unseen;  
for the things that are seen are transient,  
but the things that are unseen are eternal.

2 Corinthians 4:17