Jesus, the Sufferer

Song: "Were You There" (author unknown)

1) Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

2) Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

I. Paradox of Lordship of Jesus Christ (Gk. *para*-"beyond" - *doxa* "opinion")

    A. WOW!! JOY—Christ as light, life and baptizer in the Holy Spirit (Jn. 8:12)
    B. YUCK!! SORROW—Christ Experienced the Darkness of the "Suffering Servant"
        1. Messiah (Heb.) for "Christ" (Gk.)—anointed one, anointed with the Holy Spirit"
        2. Darkness of Suffering and Death—Title of Jesus, OT "Suffering Servant" (Is. 53:3-6)
    C. Christian Success lies in what the world calls failure -
Suffering (faithfulness)>>Condemnation (witness—martyr)>>Death (unconditional love)

II. "Messiah-ship" Defines Discipleship--
    Disciple—follower, learner who attaches him/herself entirely to the Master—Christ
    A. We are called to be suffering servant disciples
    B. We are to embrace Christ's Cross—NO CROSS, NO RESURRECTION
    (2 Tm 2:11-12)
    C. Christ's 3 Step Waltz — Die - Rise – Reign

- Our Waltz with Christ (3 S's) — Suffering - Surrender - Spiritual Growth
- Process of embracing the Cross and Resurrection is a SPIRAL toward God
- Each time we go through this process, we grow closer to the love of the Trinity (Father/Son/Holy Spirit)

Song: Were You There

    3) Were you there when God raised him from the dead?
Were you there when God raised him from the dead?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when God raised him from the dead?

Reflection Questions:

1. ""SUFFERING is having what you don't want and wanting what you don't have." How does this statement strike you?

2. Which step of the waltz of the Cross are you most involved in today (Suffering, Surrender, Spiritual Growth)? Why?