

Amazon Blocks Ad for New Christian Book, 'Suffering Leads to Hope,' Over Use of the Word 'God'



Chicago, Illinois Apr 1, 2026 (Issuewire.com) - In his forthcoming book, *Suffering Leads to Hope*, James Velissaris offers a deeply personal and theologically grounded exploration of how suffering, when surrendered to God, becomes the foundation for endurance, character, and lasting hope.

In a development that underscores the cultural tension surrounding faith-based messaging, Amazon

recently blocked one of the book's best-performing advertisements due to the inclusion of the word "God." The ad, which had resonated strongly with audiences, was removed despite its focus on personal transformation and spiritual healing.

For Velissaris, the moment was not discouraging but clarifying.

"It reinforced a key lesson from Scripture: friendship with the world is enmity with God," he said. "We live in a time where people are deeply hungry for hope, but often uncomfortable with God being the source of that hope."

Suffering Leads to Hope does not promise escape from pain. It offers transformation through pain. Drawing from personal testimony, biblical theology, and psychological insight, Velissaris traces the progression outlined in Romans 5: suffering produces endurance; endurance produces character; and character produces hope.

Written largely during his time in federal prison, the book carries unusual weight. Once a successful Wall Street executive who enjoyed professional success and financial abundance, Velissaris experienced public failure, the death of his father, divorce, and incarceration—a season that stripped his faith of abstraction and tested it in lived reality.

The book has already drawn strong early praise.

"*Suffering Leads to Hope* is one of the most raw and spiritually honest books I've read in a long time," said Emily Lisa T., Chief Editor at WolfTone Editorial & Publishing. "James does not write from theory—he writes from lived experience. His journey through loss, anger, and surrender is deeply reflective and intellectually grounded. This book honors pain and gently guides readers toward redemption and meaning."

Born in the back seat of a car just outside Chicago in 1984, Velissaris was raised by a single mother working two jobs to support five children. Against significant odds, he attended Harvard University, earning a bachelor's degree in Economics, and later completed a master's degree in Operations Research at Columbia University's School of Engineering.

After seventeen years on Wall Street—working in investment research, portfolio management, and serving as Chief Investment Officer—Velissaris encountered the most profound spiritual transformation of his life through suffering and incarceration.

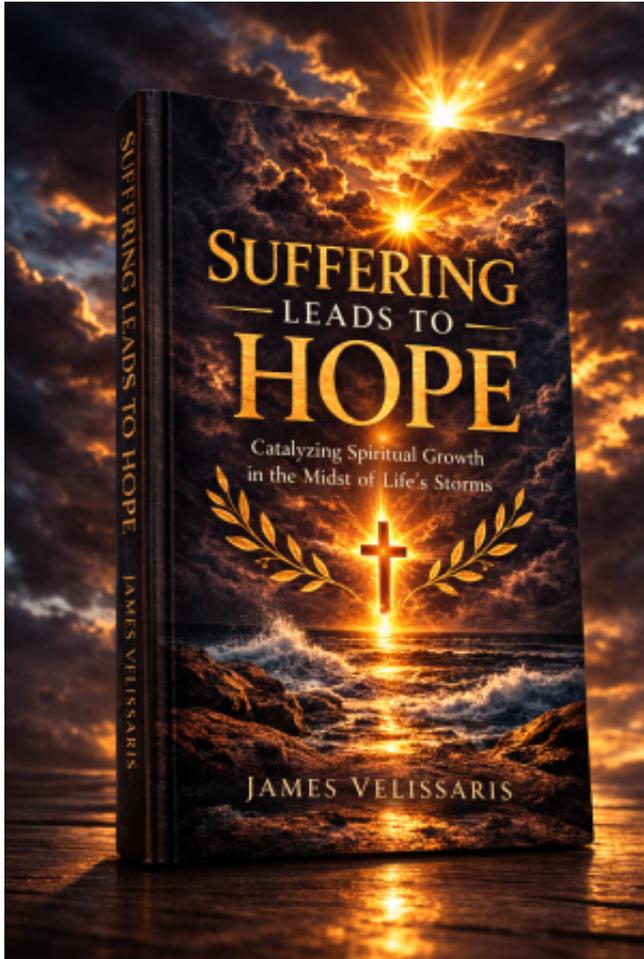
"Suffering exposes the foundation in which we are building our lives," Velissaris writes.

Suffering Leads to Hope is published by Calibration Media and will be available April 25, 2026, through major retailers including Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and Walmart.

For more information, visit:

www.calibrationmedia.com

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