

Why Do I Have to Struggle?

1. It gives God an opportunity to show us personally His power

2 Corinthians 12:9-10 ESV

But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."

Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

a. We learn dependence upon Him.

b. We learn that the Christian life is all about Him, not us.

c. We learn that God's power is seen greater to others when we are lesser than we want.

2. It provides opportunities to see God's provision in my life.

1 Corinthians 10:13 ESV

No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the

temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

Psalm 23:1-6 ESV

A Psalm of David. The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

Exodus 14:14 ESV

The Lord will fight for you, and you have only to be silent."

3. Struggling is often God's path to shape me.

Romans 5:3-5 ESV

More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

4. Struggling gives me the privilege of

experiencing my destiny in the present.

1 John 4:4 ESV

Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.

Jeremiah 29:11 ESV

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.

5. Struggling allows me to learn how to draw upon my unseen resources.

Philippians 4:13 ESV

I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

6. Struggling develops emotional maturity in my life.

James 1:2-3 ESV

Count it all joy, my brothers, **2** when you meet trials of various kinds, **3** for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. **4** And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

2 Corinthians 10:3-5 ESV

For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ,

Romans 8:28 ESV

And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

7. Struggling frees me from trying to impress others.

I Cor 2:1-5 ESV

And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling, and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

8. Struggling opens my life up to the healing

power of God.**1 Peter 5:10** ESV

And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you.

Psalm 71:20-21 ESV

You who have made me see many troubles and calamities will revive me again; from the depths of the earth you will bring me up again. You will increase my greatness and comfort me again.

9. Struggling refines my vision.**Psalm 37:7** ESV

Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him; fret not yourself over the one who prospers in his way, over the man who carries out evil devices!

Romans 8:18 ESV

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

10. Struggling makes me feel I'm on the same team with other believers.**Philippians 1:30** ESV

Engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

Westside 7-10-16

Andre Crouch...Through it All...

Lyrics

I've had many tears and sorrows,
 I've had questions for tomorrow,
 there's been times I didn't know right from wrong.
 But in every situation,
 God gave me blessed consolation,
 that my trials come to only make me strong.
 Through it all,
 through it all,
 I've learned to trust in Jesus,
 I've learned to trust in God.
 Through it all,
 through it all,
 I've learned to depend upon His Word.
 I've been to lots of places,
 I've seen a lot of faces,

there's been times I felt so all alone.
But in my lonely hours,
yes, those precious lonely hours,
Jesus lets me know that I was His own
Through it all,
through it all,
I've learned to trust in Jesus,
I've learned to trust in God.
Through it all,
through it all,
I've learned to depend upon His Word.
I thank God for the mountains,
and I thank Him for the valleys,
I thank Him for the storms He brought me through.
For if I'd never had a problem,
I wouldn't know God could solve them,
I'd never know what faith in God could do.