

3/26/2023

THIS IS THE WAY: MOVING FROM PAIN TO PURPOSE

1. **RECOGNIZE** the source of your suffering.

- ✦ Natural consequences of a fallen world
- ✦ Results of my own poor decisions
- ✦ Pain inflicted by others

“Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour.” 1 Peter 5:8 (NLT)

2. **ACCEPT** that suffering is part of the human condition.

*“Dear friends, **don’t be surprised** at the fiery trials you are going through, as if something strange were happening to you. Instead, be very glad—for these trials make you partners with Christ in His suffering.” 1 Peter 4:12, 13a (NLT)*

3. **FORGIVE** those who hurt you.

“He [Jesus]...never answered back when insulted; when He suffered He did not threaten to get even; He left His case in the hands of God who always judges fairly.” 1 Peter 2:23 (TLB)

“...Since Christ suffered in His body, arm yourselves also with the same attitude, because whoever suffers in the body is done with sin.” 1 Peter 4:1 (NIV)

- ✦ Matthew 6:14 – You need forgiveness
- ✦ Hebrews 12:15 – Unforgiveness leaves you bitter

4. **DECIDE** to face your future with hope.

“So if you are suffering in a manner that pleases God, keep on doing what is right, and trust your lives to the God who created you, for He will never fail you.” 1 Peter 4:19 (NLT)

“...He has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you.” 1 Peter 1:3-4 (ESV)

“The thief’s purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My [Jesus’] purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life.” John 10:10 (NLT)

Keep the conversation going...

1. Think about a time when you endured suffering. How did you grow from that situation? (Romans 5:3-5)
2. What difficulty are you facing right now? How do you think God can use this as an opportunity for you to grow?
3. In the past, how has not offering forgiveness affected you? How about not seeking forgiveness...from God? From others? (Matthew 6:14-15, 18:21-22; Romans 4:7; Colossians 3:12; 1 John 1:8-10)