

# Life Is Difficult

Pastor Bryan Keith Dugger - 07/10/2016



## I. The Struggle Is Real

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## II. Difficult By Design

Genesis 3:16-19

v. 16

Relationship Struggle

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v. 17-19

Environment Struggle

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## III. The God Of Comfort

2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 1:3-7

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## IV. Appreciating The Struggle

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## Personal Reflection

*Set aside fifteen minutes this week to pray & respond to the following:*

*Life is undoubtedly full of beauty, but it is also abundant in struggle. There is difficulty in work, difficulty in relationships & difficulty in prioritizing & fulfilling our responsibilities. These & other struggles are absolutely real & they are universal to the human experience.*

*Why does life have to be so difficult? Is humanity cursed with suffering or are we the architects of our own undoing? Is the difficulty of life an unfortunate consequence of the Fall or is there some God ordained purpose in the hardships we all endure?*

*God is not to be blamed for our suffering. Moreover, life's difficulties are not an evidence of His lack of love or empathy for His creation. The truth is that the gift of life brings both beauty & difficulty. Our struggles & hardships do not go unnoticed by God. He wants to be your comforter through the difficulties of life.*

*Does God have a place in your life? Is His place a mere intellectual assent that He exists or have you actually allocated daily time to indulge in His Word & commune with Him in prayer? Could it be that life is exceedingly difficult because the life-giver does not have a large enough place in your daily routine?*

*Prayerfully thank God for the gift of life. Praise Him for the goodness & mercy that He has secured for you through Christ. Take the time to enumerate each of the difficult aspects of your life. Invite the Lord to reveal the cause, meaning & truths He wants you to accept in the midst of the difficulty. Ask Him to help you rely on the comfort He gives & to equip you to comfort others for His glory.*