

Ready to Respond

Why Does God Allow Pain and Suffering ?

Life Lessons from Pain and Suffering

Lesson #1 : Learn the causes of pain and suffering.

Broken principles
Broken planet
Broken people

Lesson #2 : Learn what God wants from me and for me.

We tend to focus on "Why ?"

God tends to focus on "to What End ?"

Two Things God Wants From Me

To love him no matter what

To trust him no matter what

Three Things God Wants for Me

Closeness to Him

2 Cor. 12:7-9 To keep me from becoming conceited because of these surpassingly great revelations, there was given me a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. **8** Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. **9** 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 about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.

Character like Him

James 1:2-4 Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, **3** because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. **4** Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

Romans 5:3-5 Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; **4** perseverance, character; and character,

hope. **5** And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.

Compassion for others

I Peter 4:19 So then, those who suffer according to God's will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good.

Gen. 50:20 You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.

Lesson #3 : Learn to judge the present by the future.

2 Cor. 4:16-18 Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. **17** For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. **18** So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

Lesson #4 : Learn to live with one foot in the air.

I Peter 5:9-10 NLT Take a firm stand against him, and be strong in your faith. Remember that your Christian brothers and sisters all over the world are going through the same kind of suffering you are. **10** In his kindness God called you to his eternal glory by means of Jesus Christ. After you have suffered a little while, he will restore, support, and strengthen you, and he will place you on a firm foundation.