

Transforming Life 2

Biblical counseling services of Nashville

Week Two: Trials & Suffering

INTRO

In this life, you _____ have trials and suffering:
For man is born for trouble, as sparks fly upward. Job 5:7

“Man comes into the world with a cry and he goes out with a groan” Thomas Watson

If you draw breath; you will know trouble. This is a fact. The question is this: Will you view your trials and suffering as random, cruel and _____; or, as having great and eternal _____?

PURPOSE

Rom 8:28-29

PROCESS

Heb 2:10-11

1 Pet 2:21

2 Tim 1:8

Smooth seas to not produce _____ sailors.

1. God is Sovereign Over _____

Isa 46:9-13

Dan 4:34-35

Eph 1:11

1. God has the power to _____ or disallow any action of any man at any time He chooses.

Prov 21:1

Prov 16:9

2. While God does _____ all things that occur everywhere at all times, He does not _____ of evil. He is not the author of evil; nor does He tempt man to do evil.

James 1:13

3. This means that God uses the wicked acts of man for His greater purposes of our _____ and His _____.

Gen 50:20
Acts 2:22-23

Job's Assessment: Job 1:14-18; 20-22

Thomas Manton said, "The worth of a soldier is never known in times of peace."

II. Divine Purposes for Trials & Suffering

1. To _____ Us – To know what is in our _____

Deut 8:2-6

This is the grand purpose for which Jesus came:

Luke 2:34-35

Through _____ :

2 Chr 32:31

For _____ :

John 6:5-6

2. To _____ Us

2 Cor 12:7

3. To _____ Us From Worldly Things [see 1 Jn. 2:15-17]

Heb 11:24-26

4. To Put His _____ on Display

Ro. 9:22-23

III. God's Reasons for Trials & Suffering

1. _____ – from unconfessed sin (Ps. 32:1-5; 38:1-10; 1 Cor. 11:30)
2. _____ – from a wrong course (Ps. 119:67; Gal. 6:7; Heb. 12:5-11)
3. _____ – from an unproductive life (Jn. 15:2; 2 Cor. 1:3-7; 2 Pe. 1:5-9)
4. _____ – others who suffer (2 Cor. 1:3-7)

Spurgeon said, "When a sorrowing spirit shall have comforted itself, it will have learned the art of consoling other people."

5. _____ – to God in trust and hope in Christ (2 Cor. 1:8-11; Heb. 6:19-20).

Recommended Resources for Further Study:

- Why Does It Have To Hurt?; Dan G. McCartney
- How Long O Lord? Reflections on Suffering & Evil; D. A. Carson
- When God Weeps; Joni Erikson Tada