

Chapter 1 : Job 22 - The Words of Eliphaz

Those who reject the sovereignty of God will either ignore clear verses on God's sovereignty over our suffering (like Job ; ;) or assign it (as Rowley does) to the possibly mistaken view of the human characters.

Related Media There is no such thing as pointless pain in the life of the child of God. How this has encouraged and strengthened me in the valleys of suffering and pain! The Lord Jesus has a big job to do, changing His ragamuffin church into a glorious bride worthy of the Lamb. Suffering develops holiness in unholy people. Getting rid of wrinkles is even more painful: No wonder suffering hurts! But developing holiness in us is a worthwhile, extremely important goal for the Holy One who is our divine Bridegroom. We learn in Hebrews Oswald Chambers reminds us that "God has one destined end for mankindâ€”holiness. His one aim is the production of saints. Suffering makes us more determined to obey God; it teaches us to be submissive. The psalmist learned this lesson as he wrote in Psalm It was good for me to be afflicted so that I might learn your decrees. As hurtful as it is, suffering can purify us if we submit to the One who has a loving plan for the pain. Jesus wants not just a pure bride, but a mature one as wellâ€”and suffering produces growth and maturity in us. I like something else Oswald Chambers wrote: Suffering scoops us out, making our hearts bigger so that we can hold more love for Him. Suffering Allows Us to Minister Comfort to Others Who Suffer One of the most rewarding reasons that suffering has value is experienced by those who can say with conviction, "I know how you feel. Feeling isolated is one of the hardest parts of suffering. The comfort of those who have known that same pain is inexpressible. It feels like a warm blanket being draped around your soul. Ray and I lost our first baby when she was born too prematurely to survive. But losing Becky has enabled me to weep with those who weep with the comforting tears of one who has experienced that deep and awful loss. Talking about my loss puts me in touch with the unhealed part of the grief and loss that will always hurt until I see my daughter again in heaven. And if you are faithful to cling to God now, I promise He will use you greatly to comfort others later. Those who have suffered tend not to judge others experiencing similar suffering. Not being judged is a great comfort to those who hurt. Suffering often develops compassion and mercy in us. Those who suffer tend to have tender hearts toward others who are in pain. We can comfort others with the comfort that we have received from God 2 Cor. Then we can turn around and walk alongside others in their pain, showing the compassion that our own suffering has produced in us. Suffering Develops Humble Dependence on God Marine Corps recruiter Randy Norfleet survived the Oklahoma City bombing despite losing 40 percent of his blood and needing stitches to close his wounds. He never lost consciousness in the ambulance because he was too busy praying prayers of thanksgiving for his survival. When doctors said he would probably lose the sight in his right eye, Mr. Norfleet said, "Losing an eye is a small thing. Whatever brings you closer to God is a blessing. Ever since the fall of Adam, we keep forgetting that God created us to depend on Him and not on ourselves. We keep wanting to go our own way, pretending that we are God. Suffering is powerfully able to get us back on track. We are forced to depend on the intercession of the Holy Spirit and the saints, needing them to go before the throne of God on our behalf. Instead of seeing that inability to pray as a personal failure, we can rejoice that our perception of being totally needy corresponds to the truth that we really are that needy. We get to the point of saying, "Lord, I can only make it through today if You help me. As painful as it is, suffering strips away the distractions of life. It forces us to face the fact that we are powerless to change other people and most situations. Recognizing our own powerlessness is actually the key to experience real power because we have to acknowledge our dependence on God before His power can flow from His heart into our lives. The disciples experienced two different storms out on the lake. He wanted them to grow in trust and dependence on the Father. He allows us to experience storms in our lives for the same purpose: I love this paraphrase of Romans 8: He redeems all of it for His glory and our blessing. Paul said he delighted in weaknesses, hardships, and difficulties "for when I am weak, then I am strong. It gets us closer to what we were created to beâ€”completely dependent on God. Several years ago I realized that instead of despising the fact that polio had left me with a body that was weakened and compromised, susceptible to pain and fatigue, I could choose to rejoice in it. My weakness made me more like a fragile, easily broken window than a solid

brick wall. Consider how the Lord Jesus was the exact representation of the glory of the Father—"I mean, He was all window and no walls! And He was the strongest person the world has ever seen. The reason His strength can shine through us is because we know God better through suffering. One wise man I heard said, "I got theology in seminary, but I learned reality through trials. I got facts in Sunday School, but I learned faith through trusting God in difficult circumstances. I got truth from studying, but I got to know the Savior through suffering. God is teaching other beings about Himself and His loved ones—"us"—as He did with Job. Sometimes He trusts us with great pain in order to make a point, whether the intended audience is believers, unbelievers, or the spirit realm. Joni Eareckson Tada, no stranger to great suffering, writes, "Whether a godly attitude shines from a brain-injured college student or from a lonely man relegated to a back bedroom, the response of patience and perseverance counts. God points to the peaceful attitude of suffering people to teach others about Himself. He not only teaches those we rub shoulders with every day, but He instructs the countless millions of angels and demons. The hosts in heaven stand amazed when they observe God sustain hurting people with His peace. Joni Tada said, "You were made for one purpose, and that is to make God real to those around you. Suffering teaches us the difference between the important and the transient. It prepares us for heaven by teaching us how unfulfilling life on earth is and helping us develop an eternal perspective. Suffering makes us homesick for heaven. Deep suffering of the soul is also a taste of hell. After many sleepless nights wracked by various kinds of pain, my friend Jan now knows what she was saved from. I have an appreciation of heaven gained from a different experience. As my body weakens from the lifelong impact of polio, to be honest, I have a deep frustration with it that makes me grateful for the perfect, beautiful, completely working resurrection body waiting for me on the other side. My husband once told me that heaven is more real to me than anyone he knows. Suffering has done that for me. Paul explained what happens in 2 Corinthians 4: For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. 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. So often, people wonder what kind of cruel God would deliberately make a world so full of pain and suffering. Suffering can make us long for the new heaven and the new earth where God will set all things right again. Sometimes suffering literally prepares us for heaven. A week later the wife died, followed in six months by her husband. Suffering dispels the cloaking mists of inconsequential distractions of this life and puts things in their proper perspective. One morning I learned that his car had died on the way to church, and I said something about what a bummer it was. Pete just shrugged and said, "This is nothing. National and International Religion Report, Vol. Zondervan, ,

Chapter 2 : Prayers for Offering Up Suffering: To Make Lemonade Out of Lemons

God both sees and cares "Jehovah saw that man's wickedness was great on the earth, and his heart was saddened." "Genesis , 6. God will stop all suffering.

Does Life Have a Purpose? Is There a God? Is Jesus Really God? Is the Bible Reliable? Can I Know God Personally? I am deeply proud of my brothers and sisters for setting aside differences for the sake of the city. It makes me incredibly weepy. This Sunday is Question 3: Why does God allow pain and suffering? Suffering transcends all class, race, ethnicity, culture, privilege. The wealthiest, most successful man on earth could lose his only daughter in a car wreck this afternoon. There is no corner untouched by grief, no demographic, no alliance. With anything so viscerally devastating, the Christian community has long tried to explain it. At the beginning of the written word, we see this tension: Job has suffered in ways incomprehensible leaving a wake of crushing confusion. God tells us it was Satan, Job tells us it was God, his friends tell Job it was him. The finger-pointing is instinctual, because what we have always wanted to know when tragedy strikes is WHY. To this end, the church has a history of formulizing suffering, giving it tidy origins and endings and whitewashing the horrid, debilitating middle. Or in the face of uncertain causes, we recite cold theology: Then adding insult to injury, we fall into the trap of explaining suffering, as if any one of us could possibly understand its eternal scope. Here is what we know about suffering from Scripture: Sometimes people suffer because of self-inflicted misery. Humans have long been their own worst enemies. We are a self-destructive people. Sometimes people suffer at the sins of others, which God would never cause, endorse, or initiate. It is contrary to his holy, perfect nature. Sometimes people suffer through no human fault at all. This is no indicator of divine disfavor. Life is simply hard. Sometimes people suffer because people get sick and die. This happens to every person, family, and community on earth. There is zero immunity from death. Even Jesus wept salty, human tears at death and the grief of his friends. Sometimes people suffer because we live on a physical earth involving tornadoes, earthquakes, wildfires, tsunamis. Natural disasters are a part of any living, shifting, fluctuating planet. And the longer we irresponsibly plunder and harm it, the greater it will groan and creak and protest, but that is a different blog. Sometimes people suffer because we have a vicious enemy who hates us and is out to steal, kill, and destroy everything redemptive and beautiful. The point is, there is no formula for suffering. There is no one answer. There is no pat explanation. We cannot possibly explain sorrow in a minute sermon with three points that all begin with an M. To put the burden of stoic acceptance onto our people is cruel and unusual, as is suggesting their suffering is likely punitive. Our platitudes will fall dangerously short. In the face of brokenheartedness, we need not counsel people in the way of spiritual justification, for we know not what we say. Nor should we lead them in the way of tidy grief, for we heap burning coals on aching heads. Suffering invites us to be radically human with one another, perhaps doing nothing more than reaching across the table, clasping hands, and weeping together. We are afforded the chance to create a safe place for someone else to mourn; nothing is needed but space, proximity, presence, empathy. Grief cannot be sidestepped; it must be endured, so may we be a people who endure with one another rather than constantly mitigating, explaining, propping up. Though it is human nature to master all knowledge, we simply must concede that so much of life is a mystery, as is the way God moves and redeems. How can we possibly fathom it all? Here is what we know about suffering and what we should cling to: God is impossibly loving. He loves our families. God restores things; all of history points to a God who makes sad things right. God is very much paying attention. He is on the move - healing and transforming. He can do this. This is what He does. There is nothing too broken that God cannot mend and redeem. In our darkest moment, when we are crushed, Jesus is as close as our own breath. He has given us to one another as agents of love and grace and safety. He told us s of times to comfort each other, making sure we are cared for. Jesus wept over death and grief; shed your tears, friend. We have a Savior who cries. We circle the wagons. We weep with those who weep. May we be slow to formulize and quick to empathize, because life is so very hard and until God makes all things new, people are dying for a cold cup of water in their suffering. If you are suffering today, imagine me grabbing both of your hands and inviting you to mourn; we will stand watch while you grieve. No need to pretend or whitewash. That is

unnecessary among brothers and sisters. We may not get a why, but we know the how: Jesus is so good and He loves you. The sun will rise with healing in its wings, but until it does, may we all learn to be a soft place to fall, cushioning the blow of suffering until Jesus turns it all into glory.

Chapter 3 : Jen Hatmaker - Why Does God Allow Pain and Suffering?

If you%ull trust God to write a beautiful story through your life, you%ull find purpose in your pain as God takes your mess and turns it into His message. My motive in telling my story is not for you to go out and buy my book or feel sorry for myself.

God, What Is Going On? She was so young. My husband was getting ready to retire. Why did he have to suffer and die from cancer? Why did God allow my child to be murdered? Does God care about your pain? Does God really understand what you are going through after your loss? He knows what is happening to you: He hears your cries for help and He invites you to come to Him for comfort. How can God understand a human problem like grief? He can relate because He grieved the unjust execution of His Son, Jesus. As painful as it was, God allowed Jesus to die as part of His plan to end suffering and death. He wanted to bring comfort, hope, and healing to you. But to appreciate this plan, you have to understand the reason suffering and death exist. The reason we suffer All of us have disobeyed God. This is not a new problem. It stretches all the way back to Adam and Eve. Because God is pure and holy, He cannot tolerate sin. The penalty for our sin is suffering in this life and physical death followed by eternal punishment. The reason you can have hope Even in His holiness, God is compassionate. He does not want us to meet our deserved fate. He sent His only Son, Jesus Christ, to die on the cross to pay the penalty for that sin. Jesus experienced death and separation from God, on our behalf, even though He was perfect. So even in the sorrow you feel right now, you can look forward with hope to the fulfillment of this plan. This involves agreeing that you disobey God and that you need Christ to die in your place to save you from experiencing the full penalty of your sin eternal punishment and separation from God. Have you ever lost your temper and said things that hurt someone? Was there a time when you slacked off on your responsibilities and caused work to pile up on someone else? Have you ever held a grudge that caused you to withhold kindness? Your eternal destiny is at stake. If you have never confessed your need for a savior, you can do it now by praying something like this: Dear Jesus, I am grieving, and I need Your help. I know that I am a sinner and that my sin has separated me from You. But I believe that You experienced the punishment that should have been mine by dying on the cross for my sins. I believe You rose from the dead so I could have the hope of living forever with You instead of spending eternity separated from You. Thank you for enduring the grief and the pain to show Your love for me. I place my trust in You to help me heal. Amen Things really are different now If you invited Christ into your life, many things have changed. Look at some of the remarkable and comforting things that have occurred: While you may never know all the details concerning why your loved one died Deuteronomy Your suffering only makes sense in the context of that story. You have a relationship with the God of all comfort: Believing in Christ for the forgiveness of sins and the promise of eternal life in Him is essential to your healing. It allows you to have a personal relationship with the God of all comfort. God loved you enough to go through the death of His Son for you. He is familiar with your suffering and will walk with you through the toughest days of your grief journey, offering comfort for today and hope for the future. You have reason for hope: Jesus promised to gather all who trusted Him for salvation into an eternal paradise. There will be no more tears, suffering, or death in that place. Rest your hope on this unshakable promise. Doing so will transform the way you grieve. God promises to use all your experiences good and bad to help you become more like His Son Romans 8: As you grow in your understanding of how wonderful Jesus is, this promise will become increasingly attractive and precious to you. Your sins were forgiven: And no matter how intense and painful your grief becomes, you can always take solace in the fact that God has lovingly and generously addressed your most pressing needâ€”your need for forgiveness. You received the gift of eternal life: While we will all experience physical death, Jesus promised that those who believe in Him will never cease to exist. For you have inherited what Jesus calls eternal life John 3: And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. He washed away our sins, giving us a new birth and new life Because of his grace he declared us righteous and gave us confidence that we will inherit eternal life. Turning control of your life over to Jesus is only the first step in an exciting relationship with God. We encourage you to begin

attending a GriefShare group; your GriefShare leader and the From Mourning to Joy exercises in your workbook will help guide you in your relationship with God. The best way to do this is to become part of a church that will teach you and guide you in a growing relationship with Jesus. Be sure to tell your GriefShare leader about your decision to follow Christ.

Chapter 4 : The Value of Suffering | theinnatdunvilla.com

Yet while we can maybe see how suffering well gives glory to God, we find it hard to imagine how suffering can possibly be for our good. The body sick with cancer, the paycheck that didn't quite cover our expenses, the grief over an unsaved family member, the late night phone call that changes our life forever.

We meet it in the death of a loved one, the loss of a job, the loss of a relationship, or the loss of a dream. But few of us know how to suffer well. Step number one for dealing with suffering: So, here are seven things to do or remember in the darkest moments: Be honest about how you feel. Cry out to God in it. He can handle it. Get outside yourself and love others. Go outward and spend time with loved ones. There is laughter, love and enjoyment to be found, even in little things. The best advice I received in a difficult time was to practice intentional gratitude. I set aside 10 minutes every day to write out what I was thankful for, even if it was really small. So if intentional gratitude seems hard, just start with something small. Get your creativity on. Do something productive and creative. Make something with your hands. Take your pain and make something beautiful out of it. Vincent Van Gogh is loved by so many because he took his suffering and created something beautiful out of it. However, trust that Jesus always brings good out of anything and everything – especially the disappointments and sufferings that life throws your way. You will be a better, stronger person from the experience. God has not forgotten you, and your suffering is precious to Him. He holds it like diamonds in His hands, and He is crafting you, a little seed, into the garden He desires you to be. He has a plan that is bigger and better than you want for yourself. Remember this, and just keep going. Let the storm be. Go to prayer, and meditate on sitting in that dark room and be still. Sit there and let Jesus come find you and comfort you. So where the heck is God in all this? It was better than that. It was a gift. His gift to her in her question was seemingly useless; it was extravagantly beautiful. His weeping with her was the extravagant gift of Himself and His humility in feeling down to the darkest depths, the same emotions as hers. He weeps with you. His presence goes beyond just a quick fix, beyond feel-good emotions: He descends down into the darkness with you. God never promised us a pain-free life. But He promised us that He would be there with us in the midst of it. Jesus Himself cried out from the Cross: And just as we share in that Cross, we also share in the glory that comes after death. Be the first to comment Share.

Chapter 5 : Four Ways To Pray In Suffering - Love God Greatly

Jon Tyson examines God's role in our pain and suffering. Embed To embed this video on your website, copy this code in its entirety, place it into the code of your webpage and provide a link back to theinnatdunvilla.com

My personal favorite is When God Weeps: Take some time to meditate on the wisdom of God as He works out His perfect will through our suffering. Suffering is used to increase our awareness of the sustaining power of God to whom we owe our sustenance Ps God uses suffering to refine, perfect, strengthen, and keep us from falling Ps Suffering allows the life of Christ to be manifested in our mortal flesh 2 Cor 4: Suffering bankrupts us, making us dependent upon God 2 Cor Suffering teaches us humility 2 Cor Suffering imparts the mind of Christ Phil 2: Suffering teaches us that God is more concerned about character than comfort Rom 5: Suffering teaches us that the greatest good of the Christian life is not absence of pain, but Christlikeness 2 Cor 4: Suffering can be a chastisement from God for sin and rebellion Ps Obedience and self-control are from suffering Heb 5: Voluntary suffering is one way to demonstrate the love of God 2 Cor 8: Suffering is part of the struggle against sin Heb Suffering is part of the struggle against evil men Ps Suffering is part of the struggle for the kingdom of God 2 Thess 1: Suffering is part of the struggle for the gospel 2 Tim 2: Suffering is part of the struggle against injustice 1 Pet 2: Suffering is part of the struggle for the name of Christ Acts 5: Endurance of suffering is given as a cause for reward 2 Cor 4: Suffering forces community and the administration of the gifts for the common good Phil 4: Suffering binds Christians together into a common or joint purpose Rev 1: Through suffering God is able to obtain our broken and contrite spirit which He desires Ps Suffering causes us to discipline our minds by making us focus our hope on the grace to be revealed at the revelation of Jesus Christ 1 Pet 1: God uses suffering to humble us so He can exalt us at the proper time 1 Pet 5: Suffering teaches us to number our days so we can present to God a heart of wisdom Ps Suffering is sometimes necessary to win the lost 2 Tim 2: Suffering strengthens and allows us to comfort others who are weak 2 Cor 1: Suffering is small compared to the surpassing value of knowing Christ Phil 3: God desires truth in our innermost being and one way He does it is through suffering Ps The equity for suffering will be found in the next life Ps Suffering is always coupled with a greater source of grace 2 Tim 1: Suffering teaches us to give thanks in times of sorrow 1 Thess 5: Suffering increases faith Jer Suffering allows God to manifest His care Ps Suffering stretches our hope Job Out of His deep love for us, God is more interested in making His children like Christ than He is in making us comfortable. The glory He receives from redeeming depraved sinners like us and remaking us into His image will be the song that fills the halls of heaven for all eternity Rev 5: Since that will be the case in the future, let us pursue joy in the Lord here in the present.

Chapter 6 : Healing from Grief - GriefShare

Why God Might Not Be Causing Your Suffering April 25, April 25, / John Pavlovitz As a pastor, you begin to see patterns in people that reveal a great deal about the problematic ways in which we tend to think about God and religion.

Like the others, Bildad and Zophar, Eliphaz assumes that all suffering is punishment for wrong doing. Job is suffering, therefore Job is being punished for wrong doing. In this study of the words of Eliphaz, we will discover things he said that we believe reflected his wrong concepts and his erroneous theology of suffering. We can learn from his error. But we should also consider, not every word spoken by these men was wrong! Their basic concept of suffering and their repeated accusations against Job were wrong - and they stand corrected and rebuked at the end of the book. But I believe we can learn from their error, but also we can certainly learn from what they said that was true. Having said that - notice, this speech of Eliphaz begins with God is perfectly self-sufficient; He has such power and holy character, He does not need to look to us for any benefit or profit. This may be similar to the thought expressed by Job, back in chapter 21, where he said, "Shall any teach God knowledge, seeing He judgeth those that are high? Now here in Job It may be Eliphaz is saying: He wants us to come to Him, and serve Him and glorify His name. But we need to keep all this in perspective - it is not the case that we offer God some benefit or profit; or that we make him complete. He makes us complete through Christ. Viewed outside the accusations against Job, this becomes a good, thought-provoking question: And we believe the answer is "No! Now this is troublesome. It is true, that God gets no pleasure from wickedness or the folly of fools Psa. David said that Jehovah "hath pleasure in the prosperity of his servant" Psa. But again -- for us, outside the context of Eliphaz misconceptions -- the question can provoke worthwhile thought. Our answer would be YES. When we behave right, that pleases God. And I think that should be an important motive for us - to know that when we love and obey God, that pleases him. He seems to be saying or implying - God realizes no pleasure or gain from the uprightness of man. I suppose - in a sense, there is no "gain," depending upon how you define that. But we have cited a number of passages showing - God wants us to be righteous, and he takes pleasure in our uprightness. This fourth question, here in verse four, seems rather sarcastic - "Job, do you think God is rebuking you for your piety? Here again we clearly see the doctrine or theology of suffering advanced by the friends of Job. Given the context of the story about Job, we believe Eliphaz was wrong in his perspective and accusations. But as we read and study his questions, it becomes a good exercise for us to think about these things. Finally we have some specific and direct accusations. According to the Mosaic Law and apparently before that, in the Patriarchal dispensation -- it was wrong to take a pledge or security from someone un-justly or without cause or reason. An extreme or exaggerated example of this would be: This was wrong and this is what Eliphaz said Job had done: No evidence or proof was given. And in fact what did God say about Job just before the tragedy? We conclude -- the charge was unfounded. We know, in the desert country hospitality was an unwritten law and to withhold water from the weary and bread from the hungry, was a grievous breach of kindness Abraham, Gen. Yet, no evidence exists - to establish Job was guilty of this. But again - no evidence. Verse 9 NIV - "And you sent widows away empty-handed and broke the strength of the fatherless. Job will later deny this - and of course, Eliphaz made the charge but gave no evidence. Eliphaz just knows Job has done something horrible to cause all this suffering, so he just pulls the accusations out from his imagination; offering no evidence. Conclusion - "snares are round about thee," etc. Verses 10,11 is the conclusion, in the mind of Eliphaz: That is why snares are all around you, why sudden peril terrifies you, why it is so dark that you cannot see, and why a flood of water covers you. But I say again - it is good for us to read and study the speech of Eliphaz; it provokes thoughts and challenges us to consider things worthwhile. And see how lofty are the highest stars! Does he judge through such darkness? Thick clouds veil him, so he does not see us as he goes about in the vaulted heavens. They were carried off before their time, their foundations washed away by a flood. What can the Almighty do to us? Certainly, God is in the heights of heavens; without any doubt the stars are lofty. Yet, Eliphaz admonished Job: What can God do for us? God disturbs their plans, their thoughts, dreams and life style. That happened back then, and it happens today. And he offers no evidence that wicked

people always suffer while righteous people never suffer. Return to God Submit to God and be at peace with him; in this way prosperity will come to you. Accept instruction from his mouth and lay up his words in your heart. If you return to the Almighty, you will be restored: If you remove wickedness far from your tent and assign your nuggets to the dust, your gold of Ophir to the rocks in the ravines, then the Almighty will be your gold, the choicest silver for you. Surely then you will find delight in the Almighty and will lift up your face to God. You will pray to him, and he will hear you, and you will fulfil your vows. What you decide on will be done, and light will shine on your ways. He will deliver even one who is not innocent, who will be delivered through the cleanness of your hands. This is an Old Testament example of an invitation, although offered from one who needed to respond! This sounds like a preaching at the end of a sermon I could use this as an invitation or exhortation when I preach. JOB 22 - one of the speeches of Eliphaz; and there are four things I would like for us to think about: The fact that a man knows some truth about God does not mean all his conclusions are correct. All of these friends of Job - all of them manifest some knowledge of God. It cannot be argued that everything they said was false. We believe some of the things they said to Job and about Job were wrong - but all of them knew some truth about God. We may hear men; we may read books written by men, and we are convinced - they know some truth about God. But this does not mean all their conclusions and doctrines are correct. This brings me to an old truth that needs to be reviewed - we need to do what the Bereans did - those were the people in Acts 17 who searched the Scriptures daily to find out if what they were hearing was true. Though Eliphaz was wrong about Job - He said some true things about God. God does not need our help, our instruction, our guidance or counsel. He is the Almighty, All wise omnipotent God who Created the heavens and the earth But we can and should listen to Him, study His Word Though Job was not guilty of these things, Eliphaz did expose some horrible sins in the sight of God. Those who engage in these things may not suffer immediate retribution in physical suffering - as Eliphaz and the others believed; but these are horrible things - and perhaps this passage can help us think about and recognize the repugnance of this kind of behavior. This is what happens when we do not think and act as God directs - selfishness takes over Finally, in verses - there is rich teaching for each one of us to take to heart. Everything here - we ought to do: Accept instruction from His mouth. Lay up his words in your heart. Verse 23 describe repentance: Yes -- they were wrong in some of the things they said. At the end of the book, God says to Eliphaz: All of this granted - there are some things these men said which were true and are true From Expository Files 5.

Chapter 7 : 7 Things to Do When You're Suffering - FOCUS

God uses suffering to humble us so He can exalt us at the proper time (1 Pet). Suffering teaches us to number our days so we can present to God a heart of wisdom (Ps). Suffering is sometimes necessary to win the lost (2 Tim ;).

Many people find it helpful to start the day with a morning offering. These prayers we present here for offering up suffering can help you and others as well. We start first with this well-known prayer Our Lady taught the three Fatima visionaries, the children Lucia Dos Santos, and her cousins Francisco and Jacinta Marto, in , to be said when offering up sufferings, sacrifices, or penances: Oh my Jesus, I offer this for love of Thee, for the conversion of sinners, and in reparation for the sins committed against the Immaculate Heart of Mary. In a similar vein, we offer this prayer: Dear Lord, Help me to remember in these troubled times The cross you carried for my sake, So that I may better carry mine And to help others do the same, As I offer up whatever your concern or problem here to you For the conversion of sinners For the forgiveness of sins In reparation for sins And for the salvation of souls. Dear Lord, I offer you whatever your concern or problem here For the conversion of sinners For the forgiveness of sins In reparation for sins and For the salvation of souls. As the well-known Catholic author Peter Kreeft once wrote in this article , our suffering can help both ourselves and others we may not even know. They become seeds, or rainwater, and something beautiful springs up that we seldom see in this life. Our sufferings can have a purpose! God has given us free will to choose to follow Him or not. And yet He can not only forgive our sins through the Sacrament of Penance Confession but also, if we stay close to Him in prayers of offerings, He can take our troubles of any size and use them to make amends for our sins or those of others. Think of this like paying to fix a window you or someone else broke! Dear Lord, during this trial, I offer up to you my confusion Give me clarity I offer up to you my despair Give me hope I offer up to you my weakness Give me strength I offer up to you my pettiness Give me generosity of spirit. The one we call the devil, Lucifer, or Satan, however, would like nothing better than to see our destruction. His approach is more subtle but it can be deadly nonetheless. Satan, the father of lies as our Lord referred to him once John 8: Do you feel like a failure? Offer all that baggage up to our Lord. Give Him your frustrations and failures. Do you feel lost? Think of people you look up to, or who inspire you. He was born in a cave to die on a cross between two thieves. He was abandoned as a common criminal by his disciples! He must have been a total failure, right? Our Lord came down on earth to share in our sufferings and to give His life not just for our Eternal Life but also so that we may see just how much He loves each of us. This love can strengthen us in our struggles and also help us to share our sufferings with His on Calvary. We can also get His grace, guidance and help through the Eucharist in Holy Communion and in Confession as well!

Chapter 8 : Intercessory Prayer: How Does God Want Us to Pray for Others? - Life, Hope & Truth

You either have to assign blame towards God, uh which to me doesn't line up with the character of Jesus, you have to, uh, assign blame completely to humans, and I think that the ways that we do.

In the midst of His greatest trial, Jesus prayed fervently. What would you have prayed about when facing torture and death? And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also may be sanctified by the truth. He knew that His trial would be their trial. He prayed for themâ€”and usâ€”out of love and deep concern. He is our Intercessor Romans 8: He is at our side and can sympathize with our weaknesses, and He makes it possible for us to receive the mercy and help we need Hebrews 4: And He wants us to learn to be intercessors too. Commands to pray for others God gives us instructions to pray for others in several places in the Bible. Why does God want us to pray for others? God wants us to think like He does, and praying for others helps us to think beyond ourselves and to grow in compassion for others. God compares prayer with sweet-smelling incense that pleases Him Revelation 5: Misconceptions about intercessory prayer Intercessory prayer is not a numbers game. God does not have to wait until 10 or 20 or people pray about a situation in order to intervene. He can and does act when the time is best, whether one or a million pray about it. Also, intercessory prayer is not something we should do to try to earn points with God so we can collect when something bad happens to us. Our motivation must be loveâ€”outgoing, unselfish concern. What about the person seeking prayers? Can a person ask other believers to pray for him and then find it unnecessary to pray himself? Prayer is part of our personal relationship with God, and so we must go to Him fervently ourselves, whether or not others are praying for us. How to intercede in prayer Prayer is a vital part of our communication with our loving Father in heaven. In the Bible He tells us how we can pray most effectivelyâ€”in a way that pleases Him. Here are a few biblical principles for effective intercessory prayer. We should pray for our needs and the needs of others every day. God knows everything; but He wants us to come to Him with all our specific requests because He likes to hear from us and to know what is important to us. With faith, knowing that God has all power and loves the people we are praying for. This might include physical help and encouragement. Cards, calls and visits might be helpful. It is not wrong to tell a person you are praying for him or her if it will help encourage the person. When a situation is very serious or hits close to home for you, you may decide to fast and pray to draw close to God to present your supplication to Him. Here are just a few: Abraham interceded for the people of Sodom for the sake of his nephew Lot Genesis Daniel made supplication to God for his people Daniel 9: The apostle Peter prayed for Dorcas Acts 9: The apostle Paul prayed for the people he served Romans 1:

It is your worst cancer, your most crippling disability, your most treacherous enemy, your deepest distress. It is the single most destructive force impacting your life. Like nothing else in all creation, this threatens your life and well-being.

The Doctrine of Suffering Introduction Why me? What is God doing? Suffering is a tool God uses to get our attention and to accomplish His purposes in our lives. Suffering is not in itself virtuous, nor is it a sign of holiness. It is also not a means of gaining points with God, nor of subduing the flesh as in asceticism. When possible, suffering is to be avoided. Suffering Defined What is suffering? What are these bends in the road that God puts in the path of life that we are to carefully consider? Simply stated, suffering is anything which hurts or irritates. In the design of God, it is also something to make us think. It is a tool God uses to get our attention and to accomplish His purposes in our lives in a way that would never occur without the trial or irritation. It may be the illness or loss of someone close to you. It may be a personal failure or disappointment in your job or school work. It may be a rumor that is circulating in your office or your church, damaging your reputation, bringing you grief and anxiety. General Causes of Suffering 1 We suffer because we live in a fallen world where sin reigns in the hearts of men. We reap what we sow Gal. Of course, all of these do not apply at the same time. All suffering is not, for instance, a product of our own foolishness, self-induced misery, or sin. It is true, however, that rarely does suffering not reveal areas of need, weaknesses, and wrong attitudes that need to be removed like dross in the gold refining process cf. It is never easy. Regardless of what we know and how hard we apply the principles, it is going to hurt cf. Suffering is Perplexing Suffering is somewhat mysterious. We may know some of the theological reasons for suffering from Scripture, yet when it hits, there is still a certain mystery. In this, it is designed to build our trust in the Almighty. Suffering is Purposeful Suffering is not without meaning in spite of its mystery. It has as its chief purpose the formation of Christ-like character Rom. It refers to a test designed to prove or approve. As a process, it takes time. The results God seeks to accomplish with the trials of life requires time and thus also, endurance. See reasons for suffering given below. Suffering is Predetermined and Inevitable 1 Thessalonians 3: Trials simply give us the capacity to cooperate with the process Jam. They allow the process to work and allow us to experience inner peace and joy in the midst of the trials. This requires faith in the eternal verities of God. Compare the blessings of affliction as seen in the testimony of the Psalmist in Ps. Straying and ignoring vs. Learning and turning vs. Determine Causes if we can Is it because of something I have done? Determine Objectives What is God wanting to do in my life or in others? Determine Solutions How does God want me to handle this? Knowing and changing vss. If we are going to endure suffering and the trials of life, however, we must also understand and believe in the other purposes and reasons for suffering as they are related to the chief purpose. Purposes and Reasons for Suffering 1 We suffer as a testimony, as a witness 2 Tim 2: When believers handle suffering joyfully and with stability, it becomes a marvelous testimony to the power and life of Christ that we claim and name. Suffering provides key opportunities to manifest and magnify the power of God through His servants in order to verify and confirm the messenger and his message. It provides opportunities to reveal our credentials as ambassadors of Christ 1 Kings. This includes the following areas: To glorify God before the angelic world Job ; 1 Pet. To manifest the power of God to others 2 Cor. To manifest the character of Christ in the midst of suffering as a testimony to win others to Christ 2 Cor. The Apostle Paul saw his thorn in the flesh as an instrument allowed by God to help him maintain a spirit of humility and dependence on the Lord because of the special revelations he had seen as one who had been caught up to the third heaven. God lovingly and faithfully uses suffering to develop personal righteousness, maturity, and our walk with Him Heb. In this sense, suffering is designed: As discipline for sin to bring us back to fellowship through genuine confession Ps. As a pruning tool to remove dead wood from our lives weaknesses, sins of ignorance, immature attitudes and values, etc. The desired goal is increased fruitfulness John Trials may become mirrors of reproof to reveal hidden areas of sin and weakness Ps. As a tool for growth designed to cause us to rely on the Lord and His Word. Trials test our faith and cause us to use the promises and principles of the Word Ps. Suffering or trials teach us the truth of Psalm It becomes a test of our loyalty Heb. If a father tells his son to do something he

likes to do it. If his dad, however, asks him to mow the lawn, that becomes a test and teaches something about the meaning of obedience. The point is, obedience often costs us something and is hard. It can require sacrifice, courage, discipline, and faith in the belief that God is good and has our best interests at heart regardless of how things might appear to us. Regardless of the reason God allows suffering into our lives, rarely does it not reveal areas of need, weaknesses, wrong attitudes, etc. Suffering itself is not the thing that produces faith or maturity. It causes us to put first things first. Ultimately, it is the Word and the Spirit of God that produces faith and mature Christ-like character. Ps. The Lord uses trials to test our faith in the sense of purifying it, to bring it to the surface, so we are forced to put our faith to work. It causes us to turn from our resources to His resources. This is similar to point 4 above with more emphasis on the process and defining the objective, the production of the character of Christ. This has both a negative and a positive aspect: Suffering helps to remove impurities from our lives such as indifference, self trust, false motives, self-centeredness, wrong values and priorities, and human defense and escape mechanisms by which we seek to handle our problems man-made solutions. This negative aspect is accomplished in two ways: Suffering becomes discipline from our heavenly Father Heb. This involves known sin, rebellion and indifference to God. Suffering becomes the loving and skillful handy work of the Vine Dresser to make us more productive. It involves unknown sin, areas we may not be aware of, but that are nevertheless hindering our growth and fruitfulness. In this case, suffering often constitutes mirrors of reproof John. When believers live under suffering joyfully it means trust, peace, joy, stability, biblical values, faithfulness and obedience in contrast to sinful mental attitudes, blaming, running, complaining, and reactions against God and people. In the process of producing Christian character and enhancing our testimony to others, suffering often opens up doors for ministry we could never have imagined. The Apostle was undoubtedly continuing to rejoice in the Lord, but if he had been complaining, sulking, and bitter, his witness would have been zero.