

Sixteen Ways God May Use Suffering (part 2)

1. Suffering destroys the illusion of self-sufficiency and keeps us totally dependent upon God.
2. Suffering teaches us to Pray.
3. Suffering causes us to treasure the Bible.
4. Suffering makes us sympathetic and gives us credibility in ministry to others' needs.
5. Suffering draws families and friends together.
6. Suffering corrects priorities, causing us to distinguish the eternal from the transitory, the important from the non-essential.

7. Suffering enables us to glorify God by increased _____ to believers and unbelievers alike.
 - John 9:1-3
 - v2 – Suffering is NOT a _____ response to sin, as the disciples assumed.
 - v3 – God's purpose in this case of suffering was to _____ His works.

 - John 11:1-4
 - v4 – The stated purpose was "for the _____ of God"
 - v5-16 – The disciples of Christ _____ more about their Savior
 - v17-37 – Mary and Marthy received special _____
 - v38-45 – Many unbelievers became _____ (see also John 12:9-11)

8. Suffering can lead to salvation for the _____ or for _____ who would not listen to the gospel any other way.
 - Luke 13:1-5

 - Luke 15:16-18
 - The main point of the parable is to illustrate that it is right to _____ when the lost are found by God
 - A _____ regarding suffering can be seen in the parable

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9. Suffering deepens our understanding of God's _____.

- Matthew 11:29
- Job 42:1-6

10. The chronic suffering of those with hardships teaches us the _____ of human life.

- James 1:27
- Matthew 25:40
 - By application of a principle in this verse, we learn that those who are needy and suffer are dear to the heart of God, and if we are drawing near to the heart of God we will care for and highly value those who are suffering.

11. Suffering causes a greater _____ of blessings by contrast.

- Psalm 103:1-5