

Sixteen Ways God May Use Suffering (part 3)

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 witness to believers and unbelievers alike.
8. Suffering can lead to salvation for the afflicted or for onlookers who would not listen to the gospel any other way.
9. Suffering deepens our understanding of God's character.
10. The chronic suffering of those with hardships teaches us the sanctity of human life.
11. Suffering causes a greater appreciation of blessings by contrast.
12. Suffering _____ our loyalty and faith.
 - Job 1:6-2:10
 - Job described (1:8) – “a blameless and upright man, one who _____ God and shuns evil”
 - Job described (2:3) – “AND STILL he holds fast to his _____”
 - Job evaluated (1:22, 2:10) – “In all this Job did not _____”
 - Job 13:15a
 - Job 23:10
 - 1 Peter 1:3-9
 - v3-5 – Our salvation is _____
 - v6 – We rejoice in salvation while we endure _____
 - v7-9 – God's _____ is to increase the praiseworthiness of your faith.

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13. Suffering can correct our _____ and bring us back to walking with God.

- Hebrews 12:6-11
- John 5:14b
 - *Principle in these passages:* Whether in blessing or adversity, the Lord seeks to lead people to _____ the sinfulness of sin and _____ the blessedness of righteousness.

14. Suffering causes us to appreciate God's _____ and _____ in light of our own limitations.

- Isaiah 40:27-31
- 2 Corinthians 12:10 – "I take pleasure in infirmities... for when I am weak, then I am strong"

15. Suffering builds greater _____.

- James 1:2-3

16. Suffering is part of the mysterious process toward _____ - _____ as He also first suffered and then entered glory.

- Luke 24:26
 - (See 1 Peter 1:10-11 and Hebrews 2:9-10 for reasons Christ needed to suffer)
- Romans 8:18, 28-29
- Major theme in 1 Peter – God uses suffering for the believer's _____ and for His _____.
 - (See especially: 1 Peter 1:6-9, 2:20-21, 3:13-17, 4:12-19, 5:1, 5:10-11)