



Why Does God Allow Suffering? - Part 1

Pastor Rick Hancock | August 4, 2019

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- **First Point of Light**

- God is _____ the _____ of evil and suffering.
God saw all that He had made, and it was very good. Genesis 1:31 NIV

Two kinds of evil:

- _____ evil
For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. Romans 3:23 HCSB
- _____ evil
Cursed is the ground because of you...It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. Genesis 3:17-18 HCSB
We know that all creation is still groaning and is in pain, like a woman about to give birth. Romans 8:22 CEV

- **Second Point of Light**

- Though suffering isn't good, God can use it to _____.
- God uses pain to _____.
For the kind of suffering God wants us to experience leads us away from sin and results in salvation. There's no regret for that kind of sorrow. 2 Corinthians 7:10 NLT
"God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our conscience, but shouts in our pain: it is His megaphone to rouse a deaf world." C.S. Lewis
- God uses pain to _____ our _____.
But we also rejoice in our afflictions, because we know that affliction produces endurance, endurance produces proven character, and proven character produces hope. Romans 5:3-4 HCSB

Though He was God's Son, He learned obedience through what He suffered. Hebrews 5:8 HCSB

- God uses pain to lovingly _____ His children for our own good.

As you endure this divine discipline, remember that God is treating you as His own children. Who ever heard of a child who is never disciplined by its father? If God doesn't discipline you as He does all His children, it means that you are illegitimate and are not really His children at all. Since we respected our earthly fathers who disciplined us, shouldn't we submit even more to the discipline of the Father of our spirits, and live forever? For our earthly fathers disciplined us for a few years, doing the best they knew how. But God's discipline is always good for us, so that we may share in His holiness. No discipline is enjoyable while it's happening – it's painful! But afterward there will be a peaceful harvest of right living for those who are trained in this way. Hebrews 12:7-11 NLT

- God can accomplish something _____ out of the _____ of life.

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose. Romans 8:28 NIV

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

Do you need proof? Consider the _____!

Memory Verse

But we also rejoice in our afflictions, because we know that affliction produces endurance, endurance produces proven character, and proven character produces hope. Romans 5:3-4 HCSB

Next Steps

- I will begin seeking the good that can come from the suffering I experience.
- I will attend the worship service next week to learn the last three Points of Light so that I can view suffering from God's perspective.
- I will share with others what I'm learning about suffering and pain from God's Word.