

PURSUING GOD IN PAIN & SUFFERING HANDOUT
MARCH 4, 2015 NANCY EWING

The Difficult Whys?

What are the questions that you have concerning suffering?

1. Is sin the cause of my suffering?
2. Is it my lack of righteousness?
3. When Jesus walked the earth he healed the sick, the lame, the blind, even raised the dead! Why doesn't he heal me?
4. How can a loving God allow such suffering? Or to make it more personal: If God loved me I wouldn't be suffering like this.
5. Is suffering necessary?

So then, if suffering is indeed a part of our lives how are we going to do this well?
How are we going to survive the fire or the flood without losing the best parts of ourselves?

How do we align ourselves to God so that suffering changes us for the better rather than for the worse?

How do we continue to Pursue God?

Suffering actually can use evil against itself. It can thwart the destructive purposes of evil and bring light and life out of darkness and death.
Timothy Keller in Walking with God through Pain and Suffering

SO WHAT'S THE BOTTOM LINE?

The Keys to keeping on keeping on With God in Pain & Suffering are:

- Knowing God is in control. Knowing God is Good and Knows all.
- You have to know God loves you... YOU, as an individual.
- And you have to realize that God is up to bigger things in your life, eternal things, things that will not only impact you and yours but the very kingdom of God.

So then, **if these are the keys, how are we going to lay hold of them?**

A PURPOSE IN SUFFERING—WHAT GOD IS ABOUT IN YOUR LIFE

Romans 8:28

*And we know that all things work together for good, to them that love God,
to those who are called according to His purpose.*

Romans 8:29 answers that question for us:

*“For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed
to the image of His Son, Beloved, now we are children of God, and it
has not appeared as yet what we will be.”*

*“We know that when He appears, we will be like Him,
(WHY”) because we will see Him just as He is.” I John 3:2*

*Well how does He do that? Can He really do that? If He is truly All Powerful and All Knowing He can.

EXAMPLE: Joseph.

Genesis 45:4-8

Genesis 37:23-28

Break into small groups and study the following and record your discoveries.

Joseph’s life is just full of coincidences?

Genesis 39:1-4: sold to Potiphar

Genesis 39:19-23: finds favor with chief jailer

Genesis 41:14-16: Pharaoh sends for Joseph to interpret dream

Genesis 41:39-40: Joseph below only Pharaoh in all of Egypt

A PLACE (PERSON) OF REFUGE—HE LOVES YOU, LOVE YOU LOVES YOU!

To think He made that immeasurable leap from His Glorious throne in Heaven to sin scarred earth, laying aside His regal robe and the crown that marked Him King of Kings and took on flesh and blood just like us “*so that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and might free those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives.*” And all for the love of you. All for the love of you.

“By this the love of God was manifest to us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.” I John 4:9-10

A POWER TO ENABLE—WHO WAS ON THE CROSS THAT DAY?

A PROUD PAPA’S PRAISE –DEVELOPING AN ETERNAL OUTLOOK