

YET WILL I TRUST HIM, PART 5
WHAT GOOD IS SUFFERING?
Job 7:20-21, 10:18-22

The meaning of our suffering is not always clear, but God has made it clear that our suffering always has meaning.

INTRODUCTION:

Faith—an arena of spiritual weariness in times of suffering

Trying to understand our suffering is exhausting because we're lost in the problem itself.
Trying to understand our suffering is exhausting because we're limited in our perspective.

Some possible CAUSES of suffering according to the biblical worldview

God is punishing you for some kind of personal sin or rebellion.
God is disciplining you for some kind of corporate sin or rebellion.
God is letting you experience the consequences of other people's sins or failures.
God is allowing you to experience the ravages of the fallen natural world.
God is putting you through some kind of test to reveal your character.
God is running you through some kind of ordeal to strengthen your character.
God is humbling you and teaching you to rely more fully on him for all things.
God is preparing you for ministry to others who will suffer in a similar way.
God is giving you an opportunity to serve him even when it doesn't pay.
God is using you as an honored soldier in his cosmic war against evil.
God is permitting you to suffer for some reason known only to him.

Some possible BENEFITS of suffering according to the biblical worldview

Suffering can produce an obedient, Scripture-centered life.
Suffering can produce perseverance, maturity, character, and hope.
Suffering can produce a sanctified life that identifies with Christ's sufferings.
Suffering can produce a yearning for heaven and the restoration of all things.
Suffering can produce an eternal glory that far outweighs our earthly pain.
Suffering can produce a refined faith that proves genuine.

CONCLUSION:

Faith—an arena of spiritual warfare in times of suffering

The initial disgrace of Satan:
Jesus' trust in the Father's goodness despite his sufferings on the cross.

The on-going disgrace of Satan:
Our trust in the Father's goodness despite our sufferings in this world.