

When it Hurts

Pastor Kent Groethe

This world and life is rife with pain.

“I am born to lose everything I love.” Jefferson

“God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our conscience,
but shouts in our pains. It is a megaphone to rouse a deaf world.”

C.S. Lewis

Many people do not believe in God because of one thought:

“How can there be a loving God when innocent people suffer so much.” That thought contains three false presuppositions.

1. People are innocent.

The Truth; people are self-absorbed, sinful, and wretched.

“There is no one righteous, not even one. All have turned away
there is no one who does good, not even one.” Rom. 3

2. Suffering is bad ([see other side](#))

3. Happiness is the greatest goal of life.

Jesus, God in the flesh, suffered for the goal of reconciling the world
to himself –

The reality is, God loves us passionately AND we suffer many ills in this
life. Can you live with that?

Scripture pulls back the curtain and exposes

- A. humans as morally bankrupt and the cause of suffering
- B. suffering as a necessary instrument to human development
- C. Happiness as secondary

“God’s Use of Suffering”

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1. Our Suffering Creates Empathy and Compassion for Others.

“*[Jesus] comforts us in all our troubles so we can
comfort those in any trouble.*”

2 Cor. 1:4

2. Our Suffering Helps Us Put Our Trust and Focus on God.

“*This [suffering] happened that we might not rely ourselves, but on
God.*”

2 Cor. 1:9

3. Our Suffering Breaks our Pride and Arrogance.

“*To keep me from being conceited...there was given me a thorn in
the flesh.*”

2 Corinthians 12:7

4. Our Suffering Builds Perseverance.

“*Consider it pure joy, brothers, and sisters, whenever you face trials
of many kinds, because you know the testing of your faith develops
perseverance.*”

James 1:2-3

5. Our Suffering Can Deepen our Faith.

“*For a little while you may have had to suffer Grief in all kinds of
trials...so that your faith may be proved genuine and may result in
praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.*”

1 Peter 1:6-7

6. How We Go Through Suffering May Be our Greatest Witness to others of the reality of Christ.