

Why Struggles?

The reason we struggle with suffering and how to handle it is because we don't understand it. Why do we have to suffer? Saying that it is just the product of a fallen world is not good enough. We want to know: What is God doing with our suffering?!

Scripture(s): 2 Corinthians 1:1-7

"Blessed Be the Name"
"Whom Shall I Fear"
"The Lily of the Valley"
* Children's Sermon, Praises,
& Prayers *
"Make Me Like You"

I. The first reason that God takes us through suffering as He works through us is so we can know His _____. Suffering is not random for it calls us to the glorious comfort of _____ with _____.

Hebrews 5:7 In the days of His flesh, He offered up both prayers and supplications with loud crying and tears to the One able to save Him from death, and He was heard because of His piety. 8 Although He was a Son, He learned obedience from the things which He suffered. 9 And having been made perfect, He became to all those who obey Him the source of eternal salvation,

✓ See your struggles as part of your growing awareness of who God is to you rather than just something you have to _____.

II. The second reason that God takes us through suffering as He works through us is God's comfort teaches us how to comfort _____. When we suffer we _____ realities of God that allow us to comfort others.

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 9 Two are better than one because they have a good return for their labor. 10 For if either of them falls, the one will lift up his companion. But woe to the one who falls when there is not another to lift him up. 11 Furthermore, if two lie down together they keep warm, but how can one be warm alone? 12 And if one can overpower him who is alone, two can resist him. A cord of three strands is not quickly torn apart.

✓ _____ down the spiritual or wisdom lessons that God has taught you through your struggles.

III. The third reason that God takes us through suffering as He works through us is we share with _____ and other believers. When we share in one another's struggles, we discover a profound expression of _____.

✓ Don't let suffering _____ us from one another.

Remember this - Our struggles lead us to practice _____ in on the Jesus we always need to lean on.

Our challenge: Change how we see our walk with Christ from learning facts about Him to living with Him _____.