

PRAYER IN PAIN & SUFFERING (Part2)

Review Last Week:

Romans 5:3-5

³ ... but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

Principles

During your suffering, pray for a changed life (endurance, character and hope).

Look for the ways God is pouring His love into your heart.

JACOB

Genesis 42:36-38

Despondent over sons & life itself

³⁶ And Jacob their father said to them, "You have bereaved me of my children: Joseph is no more, and Simeon is no more, and now you would take Benjamin. All this has come against me." ³⁷ Then Reuben said to his father, "Kill my two sons if I do not bring him back to you. Put him in my hands, and I will bring him back to you." ³⁸ But he said, "My son shall not go down with you, for his brother is dead, and he is the only one left. If harm should happen to him on the journey that you are to make, you would bring down my gray hairs with sorrow to Sheol."

FROM A SPIRITUAL STANDPOINT, WHAT ARE JACOB'S ERRORS?



- When suffering, there is no set period for which we can just brace ourselves and then get our agenda met.
- God provides UNCERTAIN time periods so we can hope...not in the time elapsing...but in HIM

GOD'S TOOL

MOSES' HEART

Obscurity	Removes →	Pride
Time	Removes →	Fear
Solitude	Removes →	Faulty Crutches
Discomfort	Removes →	Resistance

Charles Swindoll

Principles

- *Guard against cynicism. God is always weaving a story for your life—and it's not over.*
- *God's hiddenness is not abandonment.*
- *During suffering, don't assume you understand what God is doing.*
- *Stay in the story and pray by: waiting, watching, submitting, thanking, repenting.*

Myth: "If I can just understand what God is doing with this suffering, I could be OK."

What's wrong with this thinking?

Job 42:1-2, 3b, 5-6

Then Job answered the LORD and said: ²"I know that you can do all things, and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted. ³...Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand, things too wonderful for me, which I did not know. ⁵I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees you; ⁶therefore I despise myself, and repent in dust and ashes."

Principle

When you know the WHO, insistence on the “why... when... how” will fade. Peace and joy are found in praying & rehearsing God’s attributes—not seeking additional info.

PRAYERS OF LAMENT

Psalm 142

A Maskil of David, when he was in the cave. A Prayer

<p>142 With my voice I cry out to the LORD; with my voice I plead for mercy to the LORD. ² I pour out my complaint before him; I tell my trouble before him. ³ When my spirit faints within me, you know my way! In the path where I walk they have hidden a trap for me. ⁴ Look to the right and see: there is none who takes notice of me; no refuge remains to me; no one cares for my soul.</p>	<p>I cry to you, O Lord; I say, “You are my refuge, my portion in the land of the living.” 6 Attend to my cry, for I am brought very low! Deliver me from my persecutors, for they are too strong for me! 7 Bring me out of prison, that I may give thanks to your name! The righteous will surround me, for you will deal bountifully with me.</p>
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Principle

God welcomes a true lament. It fosters relationship with Him. Try praying this pattern in any order that is honest:

MY REALITY <-----> TRUTH ABOUT GOD <-----> ASK

Great Resources:

A Praying Life
When God Weeps
Walking with God Through Pain & Suffering
Deserted by God?
Hearing Jesus Speak into Your Sorrow
When Suffering Enters Your Door (Audio)

Paul E. Miller
Joni Eareckson Tada & Steven Estes
Timothy Keller
Sinclair Ferguson
Nancy Guthrie
Paul Tripp

