The Gift of Suffering

2.0

Why me? Why now? What is God doing? Suffering is a tool God uses to get our attention and to accomplish His purposes in our lives. It is designed to build our trust in the Almighty, but suffering requires the right response if it is to be successful in accomplishing God's purposes. Suffering forces us to turn from trust in our own resources to living by faith in God's resources.

Connect

1. Tell us about a very stressful,challenging or painful event in your life ?
2. How did you respond to it ?
3. How do you think you should have responded to it?

So What

1. Is it sometimes good to suffer? Why or why not? (explain your answer)
2. Is there a benefit to suffering?
3. Do you feel that suffering has built your own character? Do you know friends or loved ones whose character has been improved somehow through the process of suffering?

Word

1 Peter 1:6-7
Suffering proves our character

James 1:2
Joy in suffering

John 16:33
We can find peace in Christ

2 Corinthians 12:9
God's grace is sufficient.

Now What

Is there really something good that can come out of pain? Explain your answer.

How does knowing God's purpose help you find joy in your trials?

Where would you put your trust when you are faced with difficult situations?

Prayer

Instead of only praying for God to remove your "thorn," pray that God will fill you with His wisdom and understanding, that you will grow in His likeness and that you will please the Lord and bear fruit for His Kingdom in the midst of your suffering.
Boldly pray that regardless of your circumstances, you willcontinue to trust God and find peace and comfort in his promises.

Notes

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