

WHY are you surprised?



Beloved, *do not be surprised* at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. (1 Pet. 4:12)

Suffering is Coming

Ps. 34:19

2 Corinthians 4:8-10

PAULS LIFE: 2 Corinthians 11:23-28

Jas. 1:1

John 16:33

2 Tim 3:12

Matt 10:22

Philippians 1:27-30

2 Timothy 1:8 -

GOD is Sovereign over our suffering

JOB

DAVID

JOSEPH

SEE GOD IN SUFFERING

1. GOD IS _____

God's Sovereignty is _____ and Complete

- Job 42:2
- Psalm 115:3
- Psalm 135:6
- Isaiah 14:27
- Lamentations 3:37

God Determines the Details of _____

- Daniel 2:21
- Romans 13:1
- Daniel 4:17
- Proverbs 21:1
- Deuteronomy 2:30
- Isaiah 44:28
- Revelation 17:16-17
- Exodus 10:1

God Determines the Details of _____

- Psalm 139:16
- Job 14:5
- John 7:30
- James 4:13-15
- Proverbs 16:9
- Proverbs 16:33
- Job 36:32

God is Sovereign Over the _____ Circumstances in our Lives

- Job 1:8-12
- Job 2:3-6
- Job 2:10
- Genesis 50:20
- Deuteronomy 32:39
- Isaiah 45:7
- Lamentations 3:38

“Even evil, though not authored by Him, is ordained and allowed by God for the furtherance of His sovereign purposes. In fact, the greatest evil ever perpetrated was ordained by God for the greatest good on our behalf. Christ’s crucifixion was satanically devised, humanly conspired, and divinely orchestrated.”¹

¹ MacArthur “Life is Random” in series 10 lies

- Luke 22:22
- Acts 2:23
- Acts 4:27-28

What He does is not up for _____

- Isaiah 29:16
- Jeremiah 18:6
- Romans 9:20-22

2. God is _____

- Matthew 9:36
- Matthew 14:14
- Mark 1:41
- Luke 19:41
- 1 Peter 5:7

3. God is All _____

- Romans 11:33
- Isaiah 40:28
- Isaiah 55:8-9

4. God is All _____

- Job 42:2
- Psalm 62:11
- Jeremiah 10:12-14
- Jeremiah 32:17

5. God is _____

- 2 Cor. 11:23-28

6. God is _____

since God's providence is all-embracing and all-pervading, it relates powerfully, meaningfully, immediately to every situation in every person's life. Nothing is outside the providence of God. His design in his providence at every moment of our lives is relevant for how we live and how we respond to everything that comes our way²

- Proverbs 16:4

² John Piper, "What Difference Does Providence Make?," *Desiring God*, last modified January 6, 2021, accessed January 6, 2021, <https://www.desiringgod.org/interviews/what-difference-does-providence-make>.

- Isaiah 46:9-10
- 1 Corinthians 12:18
- Isaiah 46:10
- 2 Timothy 1:9
- **Romans 11:36**
- Jam 1:1
- Rom 5:1
- Jeremiah 29:11
- Rom. 8:18-3

Paul is not saying that God prevents His children from experiencing things that can harm them. He is rather attesting that the Lord takes all that He allows to happen to His beloved children, even the worst things, and turns those things ultimately into blessings... No matter what our situation, our suffering, our persecution, our sinful failure, our pain, our lack of faith—in those things, as well as in all other things, our heavenly Father will work to produce our ultimate victory and blessing.³

The difficulties of life are intended by God to refine our faith: heating it in the crucible of suffering so that impurities might be refined away and so that it might become pure and valuable before the Lord. The “testing of faith” here, then, is not intended to determine whether a person has faith or not; it is intended to purify faith that already exists.⁴

Suffering humbles me and _____ me to find sufficiency in Christ ALONE !!

2 Corinthians 12:7-10
Psalm 119:71

SUMMARY TRUTH

Philippians 1:6 being confident of this very thing, that **He who has begun a good work in you will complete it** until the day of Jesus Christ;

³ MacArthur, J. F., Jr. (1991). *Romans* (Vol. 1, p. 473). Chicago: Moody Press.

⁴ Moo, D. J. (2000). *The letter of James* (pp. 54–55). Grand Rapids, MI; Leicester, England: Eerdmans; Apollos.

HOW DO I GLORIFY GOD IN MY SUFFERING

_____ to God

_____ .. if any lacks wisdom let him ask

_____ and See God's hand

Genesis 45:8

Genesis 50:20

_____ (acknowledging His worthiness) - **Job 1:20-21**

Be _____ - **1 Thessalonians 5:18**

Be _____ (true Christlikeness) - **2 Corinthians 12:7**

Be _____ (Joseph) - **Ephesians 4:32**

- You are never more like Christ than when you _____
- You will never have occasion to forgive _____ of another that Christ has forgiven you

_____ to Sin in my reactions

1. we cannot _____ trials – God is the orchestrator and He is ALL wise
2. we cannot decide _____ we will have trials
3. we cannot decide _____ our trials are
4. we cannot decide _____ we will have trials
5. we cannot decide _____ trials will last
6. we cannot decide _____ many trials we will face at once
7. we cannot be certain we will _____ the reason for our trials

8. WE CAN decide how we will to trials

Infinite wisdom has arranged the whole with infinite love,
and infinite power enables me to rest upon that love.

I am in a dear Father's hands;
All is secure.

When I look to Him I see nothing but faithfulness and immutability and truth,
And I have the sweetest peace.

I cannot have more peace!

CHARLES SIMEON

“A lesser wisdom than the Divine would feel impelled to forbid, to circumvent or to resist the outworking of these hellish plans. It is a fact that often God's people try to do this themselves, or cry unceasingly to the Lord that He may do it. So it is that prayers often seem to lie unanswered.”

Jerry Bridges, *Trusting God*, p. 120