

30 Reasons Why Christians Suffer:

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1. To encourage us to pray (Psalm 50:15; 77:2; James 5:13)
2. To keep us from pride (Job 42:5-6; 2 Cor. 12:7)
3. To prod us to depend upon God (2 Cor. 1:9-10)
4. To deepen us spiritually (Rom. 5:3-4)
5. To focus our attention on God's Word (Ps. 119:50, 71)
6. To urge us to obey God (Ps. 119:67)
7. To develop patience and perseverance in us (Rom. 12:12; James 1:2-3)
8. To promote spiritual maturity (2 Thess. 1:4; James 1:4)
9. To advance the gospel of Jesus Christ (Phil. 1:12)
10. To bring praise and glory to God (John 11:4; 1 Pet. 1:7)
11. To demonstrate the genuineness of our faith (1 Pet. 1:7)
12. To enable us to comfort others (2 Cor. 1:4-6)
13. To increase our desire for heaven (Rom. 8:18)
14. To experience Christ's power in us (2 Cor. 12:9)
15. To reveal God's work (John 9:3)
16. To chastise us because of willful rebellion (1 Cor. 11:30; Heb. 12:5-12)
17. To follow Christ's example (1 Pet. 2:20-21)
18. To experience God's care (1 Pet. 5:7)
19. To keep us on the right path (Job 33:18, 30)
20. To silence Satan's accusations (Job 1:11, 22)
21. To deepen our confidence in the Lord (Rom. 8:28)
22. To fellowship with Jesus Christ in His sufferings (1 Pet. 4:12-13)
23. To participate in Christ's glory (1 Pet. 4:13, 5:1).
24. To experience God's comfort (2 Cor. 1:3-7)
25. To give us wisdom (James 1:2-8)
26. To take ownership of God's interests (Mark 8:34; 1 Pet. 2:21)
27. We reap what we sow and what we sow we reap...suffering may be the consequence (s) of our infidelity to God (Gal. 6:7)
28. To see with whom we are identified, the person of Jesus Christ, and not be ashamed of that identity (1 Pet. 4:16)
29. To rejoice (1 Peter 4:13)
30. To testify of Jesus Christ to a world that hates Him (John 15:18-25).

Concluding thought from Oswald Chambers:

“If we are going to be used by God, He will take us through a multitude of experiences that are not meant for us at all, but meant to make us useful in His hands.

There are things we go through which are unexplainable on any other line, and the nearer we get to God the more inexplicable the way seems. It is only looking back and by getting an explanation from God's Word that we understand His dealings with us.” ~ *Daily Thoughts for Disciples*, 34

~ Portions are adapted from a handout by Dr. Roy Zuck, titled, “God's Purposes in Suffering.”