

God's Purposes For Pain

It seems to be a great contradiction that God has created us but still allows pain and suffering in this life. Suffering is a result of Adam and Eve's sin in the garden (Genesis 3:14-19). God could have eliminated suffering, but He did not. There is, at least, an implication that pain or suffering can be beneficial. There are actually several reasons why pain can ultimately help us:

1. It teaches us to listen to God (Psalm 119:71).
2. It shows us our frailty (2 Corinthians 12:7-10).
3. It drives out unruliness and bring order to our lives (Jeremiah 31:18).
4. It helps us avoid being condemned with the world (1 Peter 4:1-2).
5. It brings fire into our hearts (Malachi 3:2-5).
6. It helps us develop perseverance, maturity and completeness (James 1:2-4).
7. It helps us win victories (Romans 8:37-39).
8. It helps us enter fully into Christ's experience (1 Peter 2:19-25).
9. It helps us long for a better country (Hebrews 11:13-16).
10. It brings glory to God (John 9:3).

Henry Ward Beecher once said, "Troubles are often the tools by which God fashions us for better things." Paul said, "*Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God*" (2 Corinthians 1:4). Although we may have tribulation, God will comfort us and we must go forth with the knowledge that there is purpose to our pain.

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