

July 30, 2023

Let Your Pain Make You Better, Not Bitter

by Ken Weliever

Pain is a problem for many people. No, not just the suffering, but understanding “why.”

While volumes have been written on the subject, this short facebook post from “Daily Devotionals by Rick Warren,” with credit given to the source “How to Get Through What You’re Going Through,” offers some insight.

While I don’t agree with all of Warren’s theology, this piece offers both Biblical wisdom and practical application.

“Sometimes it takes a painful experience to make us change our ways.”
–Proverbs 20:30 (GNT)

No matter who you are, God’s number one purpose in your life is to make you more like Jesus. To do that, he’ll take you through the same things Jesus went through.

Sometimes Jesus was lonely, misunderstood, criticized, and judged. Some days he was exhausted and other days he needed to be away from people and by himself. Jesus was even tempted!

God didn’t spare Jesus from these things—and he won’t spare you either.

Hebrews 5:9 says, “Suffering made Jesus perfect” (CEV). In this verse the word “perfect” means “complete.” Jesus became complete by going through hard times.

It’s true for you too. There are some things you learn only by going through pain.

Pain transforms you. It never leaves you where you started. You can choose for it to take you to a place of being bitter or a place of being better.

I don’t know what you’re going through today. It may be a physical, financial, or relational problem. Maybe it’s a prolonged pain that seems like it will never go away. Whatever it is, you can choose to grow in character and become like Jesus through it.

As Paul and the believers around him suffered, they chose to have an eternal perspective, and you can too: “For this reason we never become discouraged. Even though our physical being is gradually decaying, yet our spiritual being is being renewed day after day. And this small and temporary trouble we suffer will bring us a tremendous and eternal glory, much greater than the trouble” (2 Corinthians 4:16-17 GNT).

I would add these two thoughts to Warren’s post.

#1 God did not create suffering. He is the Giver of good gifts (Jas. 1:18). God made man upright. Sinless. Perfect. Genesis 1:31 says “God saw that all He made and it was very good.” The evil, pain, and suffering did not originate

Welcome!

When you visit our assemblies, you will be received friendly, kindly and courteously. We believe this to be the natural attitude of those who truly love God and mankind. Though you may at first be among strangers, we hope that you will come to know us well and count us as your friends.

We offer Bible studies as well as correspondence courses for those interested in learning more about what God expects of us.

Important Dates

Bulverde Summer Series
- Bulverde church of Christ,
Every Thursday June 1 -
August 17

Our meeting with Mark Roberts is scheduled for
August 13-16

Gospel Meeting- August 4-6, South Loop church of Christ in Taylor with Jason Garcia

If you know of upcoming events, please inform Darrell so they can be included here.

with God. When mankind sinned by listening to Satan's lies, the problem of pain began.

#2 One day all suffering will cease. And our pain will pale in comparison to what God has in store for His followers. Heaven will be the home for those who are faithful and endure through the negative side effects of life.

In the meantime you can either allow your pain and problems to make you bitter or better. In either case, God cares. And Jesus says, "Come to me. You who labor and are burdened. And I will give you rest."

{used with permission from thepreachersword.com}

Prayer Requests

Jack Wilson is still struggling with pain and limited mobility.

Jerry Richardson's lymphoma has returned and is undergoing chemo.

Dinah Williams continues to have mobility issues.

Don Simmons is still struggling with his breathing; he is on oxygen at all times. He is home from rehab. **Alene** is having hip issues.

Lisa Mullen (Darrell's sister) is undergoing chemotherapy.

Tony Mauck has cancer that has already spread.

Vicki Stevens has cancer and is undergoing treatment.

Margaret Vanaman is home recovering.

Syble Hargrove is in Kingsland Hills Care Center.

Dorthy Steadman is recovering from her seizure and is staying with Hank.

Debbie McMurray had a biopsy at MD Anderson and is waiting for a treatment plan.

If you know of someone that needs to be on this list, please tell Darrell (email preferred) and provide updates so names stay on the list as long as needed.

"praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication.

**To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making s
upplication for all the saints,"
(Ephesians 6:18 ESV)**

The Oaks West church of Christ is a group of individual Christians who have been added to the Lord's body through baptism (Acts 2:38, 47; Gal 3:26, 27), and have joined themselves together (Acts 2:42ff) in an effort to do the Lord's will.

We are not a part of any larger organization - we do not follow any man-made creeds and we do not answer to anyone other than the Lord.

Our standard of faith and practice is the Word of God. We believe in the God of revelation (Eph 3:1-7; 2 Tim 3:16-17) and follow his instructions in an effort to have an ongoing relationship with him (1 John 4:7-11; 5:3).

Our times of study and worship are open to all, and our members are happy to meet with interested individuals or families for study.

Evangelist

Darrell Trammel
512-756-4493 Office
Darrell@
oakswestchurchofChrist.com

Elders

George Gresham
Darrell Trammel

Contact Us

Address:
P.O. Box 675
Burnet, TX 78611

Call:
(512) 756-4493

E-Mail:
oakswestchurch@gmail.com

Website:
oakswestchurchofchrist.com