

THE WARFARE OF SUFFERING

“Why Me?”

Suffering has probably produced more excuses for unbelief and examples of skepticism than any other human experience . . . Undeserved Suffering determines what kind of relationship we essentially have with God.

WARFARE PRINCIPLE #1

God is _____ the _____ of evil and suffering.

“God saw all that He had made, and was very good.” Genesis 1:31 (NIV)

THREE KINDS OF SUFFERING WE MUST DO BATTLE WITH:

- _____ SUFFERING

“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” Romans 3:23

Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned— Romans 5:12 (NASB)

- _____ SUFFERING, OR WHAT I SOMETIMES CALL “RANDOM EVIL.”

“For we know that up to the present time all of creation groans with pain like the pain of childbirth.” Romans 8:22 (TEV)

- _____ SUFFERING.

John 9:1 *And passing by, He saw a man who was blind from birth. And His disciples asked Him, saying, Master, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind? Jesus answered, Neither has this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God might be revealed in him. (NKJV)*

WARFARE PRINCIPLE #2

ALTHOUGH SUFFERING IS NOT GOOD, HE CAN USE IT TO _____. He can and does use it to accomplish good. There are many ways that God does this. I'll mention four of them. We must fight to see these principles.

- **God uses pain to _____ toward Christ.**

“For God sometimes uses sorrow in our lives to help us turn away from sin and seek eternal life. We should never regret His sending it.” 2 Corinthians 7:10 (LB)

- **God uses pain to _____ our _____**

“We also rejoiced in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character, and character, hope.” Rom. 5:3 (NIV)

- **GOD USES PAIN TO LOVINGLY _____ HIS CHILDREN FOR THEIR OWN GOOD.**

“Our fathers disciplined us for a little while as they thought best, but God disciplines us for our good, that we may share in His holiness. No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.” Heb. 12:10-11 (NIV)

- **GOD CAN ACCOMPLISH SOMETHING _____ OUT OF THE _____ OF LIFE.** God’s saying He can take the bad circumstances that befall us and He can cause good to emerge if we are committed to Him and committed to His purposes.

“And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose.” Rom. 8:28 (NIV)

“You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.” Gen. 50:20 (NIV)

**WARFARE PRINCIPLE #3:
THE DAY IS COMING WHEN SUFFERING WILL _____ AND EVIL WILL BE _____.**

“The Lord is not slow in keeping His promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.” 2 Peter 3:9 (NIV)

**WARFARE PRINCIPLE #4:
OUR SUFFERING WILL _____ IN _____ TO WHAT GOD HAS IN STORE FOR HIS FOLLOWERS.**

“For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.” 2 Corinthians 4:17 (NIV)

“I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.” Rom. 8:18 (NIV)

**WARFARE PRINCIPLE #5
WE DECIDE WHETHER TO TURN _____ OR TO TURN TO GOD FOR _____ AND _____.**

“These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world, you will have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world.” John 16:33 (NASB)

“The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.” Psalm 34:18 (NIV)