

When Life Hurts
Why does God allow Suffering?

John 16:33

Pastor Brian

Psalms 22 ¹ My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, so far from my cries of anguish?... ³ you are enthroned as the Holy One; you are the one Israel praises. ⁴ In you our ancestors put their trust; they trusted and you delivered them. (NIV)

1. He did not create evil & suffering, but he permits it.

Genesis 1 ³¹ Then God looked over all he had made, and he saw that it was very good! (NLT)

Romans 3 ²³ For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard. (NLT)

Romans 5 ¹² Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned. (NIV)

Ephesians 1 ¹¹ He makes everything work out according to his plan. (NLT)

2. We are all victims of a broken world.

Romans 8 ²¹ The creation looks forward to the day when it will join God's children in glorious freedom from death and decay. ²² For we know that all creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. (NLT)

John 16 ³³ While you are in the world, you will have to suffer. But cheer up! I have defeated the world. (CEV)

Galatians 6 ⁷ Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. (NIV)

3. God uses suffering to draw us closer to Him.

James 1 ² Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, ³ because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. ⁴ Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. (NIV)

4. God has an eternal plan for all of us.

1 Corinthians 13 ¹² For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known. (NIV)

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

Matthew 27 ⁴⁶ About three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" (which means "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"). (NIV)

Action Steps

1. If you're presently suffering, remember that God is always with you. Trust Him.
2. Remember that this life is nothing when compared with eternity.
3. Invite someone to church.