

God's Purpose In Our Lives

Does God cause good things to happen? Yes. Does God cause BAD things to happen? Yes. Does God cause EVERYTHING that happens?

Genesis 2:21 So the Lord God **caused** the man to fall into a deep sleep. While the man slept, the Lord God took out one of the man's ribs and closed up the opening. 22 Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib, and he brought her to the man.

Genesis 39:22 Before long, the warden put Joseph in charge of all the other prisoners and over everything that happened in the prison. 23 The warden had no more worries, because Joseph took care of everything. The Lord was with him and **caused** everything he did to succeed.

God causes some things.....God USES ALL things

Romans 8:28 And we know that God *causes everything* (things He causes and things He doesn't) to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to **his purpose for them.**

What's His purpose??

SALVATION.....TRANSFORMATION.....REDEMPTION/RESTORATION

Matthew 19:28 Jesus replied, "I assure you that when **the world is made new/renewed/regenerated** and the Son of Man sits upon his glorious throne, you who have been my followers will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. 29 And everyone who has given up houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or property, for my sake, will receive a hundred times as much in return (redemption!) and will inherit eternal life.

Revelation 21:5 And the one sitting on the throne said, "Look, **I am making *everything new!***"

To further that purpose/process God USES (not necessarily causes) *suffering* FOR good:

- Patience, godly character, and hope are born of suffering

Romans 5:3 We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. 4 And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation.

- Compassion is born of Suffering - Suffering teaches us how to be gracious toward others in struggle.

2 Corinthians 1:3: God is our merciful Father and the source of all comfort. 4 He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others... we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us.

- Suffering allows the *life of Christ* to be manifested/shown in our mortal flesh

2 Corinthians 4:7 We now have this light shining in our hearts, but we ourselves are like fragile clay jars containing this great treasure. This makes it clear that our great power is from God, not from ourselves. 8 We are pressed on every side by troubles, but we are not crushed. We are perplexed, but not driven to despair. 9 We are hunted down, but never abandoned by God. We get knocked down, but we are not destroyed. 10 Through suffering, our bodies continue to share in the death of Jesus so that the life of Jesus may also be seen in our bodies. 11 Yes, we live under constant danger of death because we serve Jesus, **so that the life of Jesus will be evident in our dying bodies.**

- Suffering bankrupts us, making us dependent upon God

2 Corinthians 12:9 Each time he said, "My grace is **all you need**. My power works best in weakness." So now I am glad to boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ can work through me.

Psalms 68:19 Praise the Lord; praise God our savior! For each day he carries us in his arms.

- Suffering causes us to discipline our minds by making us focus our hope on the grace to be revealed at the revelation of Jesus Christ

1 Peter 1:6 So be truly glad. There is wonderful joy ahead, even though you must endure many trials for a little while.

- Suffering reminds us of the brevity of life and teaches us to number our days

Psalms 90:10 Seventy years are given to us! Some even live to eighty. But even the best years are filled with pain and trouble; soon they disappear, and we fly away.

12 Teach us to realize the brevity of life, so that we may grow in wisdom.

- Relationships are strengthened by shared struggles

Revelation 1:9 I, John, am your brother and your partner in suffering and in God's Kingdom and in the patient endurance to which Jesus calls us.

Galatians 6:2 Share each other's burdens, and in this way obey the law of Christ.

- By sharing in the struggles of another, we are modeling the love of Christ.

Isaiah 53:4 Yet it was our weaknesses he carried; it was our sorrows that weighed him down. And we thought his troubles were a punishment from God, a punishment for his own sins!

- Suffering teaches us the greatest good of the Christian life is not absence of pain, but Christlikeness

Romans 8:28 And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them. 29 For God knew his people in advance, and he chose them to become like his Son, so that his Son would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.

- God is not concerned about my comfort....God is concerned with my Redemption

Hebrews 12:10 For our earthly fathers disciplined us for a few years, doing the best they knew how. But God's discipline is always good for us, so that we might share in his holiness. 11 No discipline is enjoyable while it is happening—it's painful! But afterward there will be a peaceful harvest of right living for those who are trained in this way.

GOD RESTORES: Lost Years.... Joel 2: 25-26 I will **restore to you the years** that the swarming locust has eaten.....you shall eat in plenty and be satisfied, and praise the name of the Lord your God, who has dealt wondrously with you.

Health.... Jeremiah 30:17 For I will **restore health** to you, and your wounds will heal, declares the Lord...

Hope.... Zechariah 9:12 Return to your stronghold, o **prisoners of hope**, today I declare that I will **restore** to you double.

Jeremiah 29:11 For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord; plans for good and not evil, to give you a future and a hope.

Joy.... Psalm 51:12 **Restore** to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit...

Reputation

Isaiah 61:7.... Instead of your shame there shall be a double portion. Instead of dishonor they shall rejoice in their lot; therefore in their land they shall possess a double portion, they shall have everlasting joy.

Sinlessness.... Repent therefore, and turn again (toward God) that your sins may be blotted out, that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord and that He may send the Christ appointed for you.

Fortune.... Job 42:10 And the Lord **restored** the fortunes of Job, when he had prayed for his friends. And the Lord gave Job twice as much as he had before.

Strength.... 1 Peter 5:10 And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will again **restore**, confirm, strengthen, and establish you.

Life.... Psalm 119:107 I have suffered much, O Lord; **restore my life** again as you promised.

Psalms 71:20-21 You have allowed me to suffer much hardship, but you will **restore me to life** again and lift me up from the depths of the earth. You will **restore me to even greater honor** and comfort me once again.

2 Corinthians 4:17 For our present troubles are small and won't last very long. Yet they produce for us a glory that vastly outweighs them and will last forever! 18 So we don't look at the troubles we can see now; rather, we fix our gaze on things that cannot be seen. For the things we see now will soon be gone, but the things we cannot see will last forever.