

## From Pain to Purpose

### Understanding the Role of Suffering

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#### I. When we experience pain, we will either

\_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_

#### II. Dependence leads to \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_

#### III. Dependence is a brilliant \_\_\_\_\_.

a. Pain leads to attachment to a \_\_\_\_\_.

b. Pain leads to \_\_\_\_\_.

c. Pain leads to \_\_\_\_\_.

2 Corinthians 4:16-17 Therefore, we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.

#### IV. Detachment leads to \_\_\_\_\_.

a. Splitting detaches us from too much \_\_\_\_\_

b. Splitting also detaches us from:

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. Our bodies and \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

#### V. Depend on the \_\_\_\_\_.

Isaiah 30:20-21 And though the Lord give you the bread of adversity and the water of affliction, yet your Teacher will not hide himself anymore, but your eyes shall see your Teacher. And your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, "This is the way, walk in it," when you turn to the right or when you turn to the left.

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#### Recommended Resources

- Surprised By Suffering - *R.C. Sproul*
- When God Weeps: Why Our Sufferings Matter to the Almighty - *Joni Eareckson Tada*
- A Place of Healing: Wrestling with the Mysteries of Suffering, Pain, and God's Sovereignty - *Joni Eareckson Tada*
- Hearing Jesus Speak into Your Sorrow - *Nancy Guthrie*
- Trusting God - *Jerry Bridges*
- God's Purpose for Your Suffering *C.H. Spurgeon*
- Suffering Is Never for Nothing - *Elisabeth Elliot*
- Suffering and the Sovereignty of God - *John Piper*
- The Problem of Pain - *C.S. Lewis*
- Walking with God through Pain and Suffering - *Tim Keller*
- Suffering: Gospel Hope When Life Doesn't Make Sense - *Paul Tripp*
- Spurgeon's Sorrows: Realistic Hope for those who Suffer from Depression - *Zach Eswine*
- Be Still, My Soul: Embracing God's Purpose and Provision in Suffering - *J.I. Packer, Nancy Guthrie, Martin Lloyd-Jones, C.H. Spurgeon, Jerry Bridges, Elisabeth Elliot*

#### Discussion Questions

1. What has been your early experience of depending on others when you needed comfort?
2. What is your usual way of escaping when suffering discomfort is too much?
3. What is one time when you experienced God comforting you?
4. Who can you reach out to this week when you need support?