

# God's Purposes in Your Trials

*2 Corinthians 12:5-10*

“So, I take it to be a biblical truth that the more earnest we become about being the salt of the earth and the light of the world, and reaching the unreached peoples of the world, and exposing the works of darkness, and loosing the bonds of sin and Satan, the more we will suffer. That’s why we should prepare.”

*John Piper*

“Over a hundred years ago Horatius Bonar, the Scottish pastor and hymn-writer, wrote a little book called *Night of Weeping or When God’s Children Suffer*. In it, he said his goal was ‘to minister to the saints... to seek to bear their burdens to bind up their wounds, and to dry up at least some of their many tears.’

“It is a tender and deep and wise book.  
So it’s not surprising to hear him say,

*‘[This book] is written by one who is seeking himself to profit by trial, and trembles lest it should pass by as the wind over the rock, leaving it as hard as ever; by one who would in every sorrow draw near to God that he may know Him more, and who is not unwilling to confess that as yet he knows but little.’*

“I speak to you as a fellow sufferer who ‘would in every sorrow draw near to God that [I] may know Him more, and [as one] who is not unwilling to confess that as yet [I know] but little.’”

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suffering and trials in your life.**

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**Our spiritual character is revealed and refined as the Lord humbles us through trials which He controls.**



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If you choose to focus on the pain, wrong, and difficulties of your sufferings, you will sinfully neglect serving God in His purposes for your trials.

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God controls your suffering. Don't grow critical, cynical, bitter, and resentful because you suffer as a Christian. Don't **blame, complain, or refrain** (withdraw).

Don't waste your life being anxious about and trying to avoid suffering. Servanthood brings suffering. God uses suffering to make us more like Jesus!

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- V. To perfect His power in us**

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1 Peter 4:19

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*Consider it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.*

James 1:2-4



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