

*From Pain to Purpose*

2 Corinthians 12:7-10

We're not fond of pain, or even slight discomfort. We rebel at the suggestion of it, recoil at the sight of it, and reject the suggestion that it might be good for us. But the lessons of life are almost always taught most successfully in the classroom of suffering. Whether you're "suffering" in school, a difficult job, a changing relationship, the pain of disease, or the heartbreak of grief, you can move from pain to purpose by applying three truths of Scripture.

**1. Pain \_\_\_\_\_ us**

(1 Corinthians 12:25-26)

- a) It alerts us to give care and \_\_\_\_\_
- b) It promotes \_\_\_\_\_
- c) It points us to \_\_\_\_\_ (Hebrews 2:14-18)

*Praise God that pain is part of a \_\_\_\_\_ and not a dead end.*

**2. Pain \_\_\_\_\_ us**

(Genesis 50:15-21)

- a) Pain brings about \_\_\_\_\_ that we otherwise wouldn't choose
- b) Pain can shape \_\_\_\_\_ and character  
(2 King 5:8-14; 2 Corinthians 12:7)

(continued on back)

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*Thank God that pain can produce greater \_\_\_\_\_  
and character in you.*

**3. Pain can have \_\_\_\_\_**

(2 Corinthians 12:7-10)

- a) Pain has the ability to \_\_\_\_\_ you (vs. 7)
- b) Pain has the ability to \_\_\_\_\_ you (vs. 8)
- c) Pain provides the opportunity for the power of  
Christ to be \_\_\_\_\_ in you (vs. 9)

*Be \_\_\_\_\_ with the power of Christ. It will make  
you content with pain, weaknesses, insults, hardships,  
persecutions and calamities.*

**MY STANDARD FOR LIFE**

*I will choose God's \_\_\_\_\_ for my pain so  
that I may develop God's power and purpose through  
my suffering. (Jeremiah 17:14)*

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**1. Pain protects us**

(1 Corinthians 12:25-26)

- a) It alerts us to give care and attention
- b) It promotes unification
- c) It points us to Jesus (Hebrews 2:14-18)

*Praise God that pain is part of a path and not a dead end.*

**2. Pain shapes us**

(Genesis 50:15-21)

- a) Pain brings about change that we otherwise wouldn't choose
- b) Pain can shape attitude and character  
(2 King 5:8-14; 2 Corinthians 12:7)

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*Thank God that pain can produce greater insight and character in you.*

**3. Pain can have power**

(2 Corinthians 12:7-10)

- a) Pain has the ability to torment you (vs. 7)
- b) Pain has the ability to weaken you (vs. 8)
- c) Pain provides the opportunity for the power of Christ to be perfected in you (vs. 9)

*Be content with the power of Christ. It will make you content with pain, weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions and calamities.*

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