



## **I. WHY DOES GOD ALLOW SUFFERING?**

### **1. On this side of eternity we will never know why certain things happen**

“There are secrets the Lord your God has not revealed to us, but these words that he has revealed are for us and our children to obey forever.

Deuteronomy 29:29 (TLB)

### **2. However, we do know that God has a purpose in suffering and will even use it for good.**

Sin came into the world through one man, and his sin brought death with it. As a result, death has spread to the whole human race because everyone has sinned.

Romans 5:12 (TEV)

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.

Romans 8:28 (NLT)

As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man who had been born blind. His disciples asked him, “Teacher, whose sin caused him to be born blind? Was it his own or his parents’ sin?” Jesus answered, “His blindness has nothing to do with his sins or his parents’ sins. He is blind so that God’s power might be seen at work in him.

John 9:1-3 (TEV)

### **3. Some good that comes from suffering:**

- **I have more appreciation for the good times.**
- **I have greater compassion for the suffering of others**
- **I have an increased understanding of what really matters**
- **I have a deeper reliance on God**

## **II. WHAT WERE THE REACTIONS TO THE BLIND MAN'S HEALING?—JOHN 9:1-41**

The reaction of...

- 1. Disciples = Debate**
- 2. Jesus = Demonstration**
- 3. Neighbors = Doubt**
- 4. Parents = Distance**
- 5. Pharisees = Denial**
- 6. Healed man = Determination**

## **III. HOW SHOULD I RESPOND TO INTIMIDATION?**

- 1. Realize that I will be intimidated for my faith**

In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted,  
2 Timothy 3:12 (NIV)

- 2. Remember there is no reason to fear people**

That should make you feel like saying, "The Lord helps me! Why should I be afraid of what people can do to me?"

Hebrews 13:6 (CEV)

- 3. Relay what Jesus has done for me**

"Go back home and tell people how much God has done for you." So the man went all over town telling how much Jesus had done for him.

Luke 8:39 (NCV)

- 4. Resolve to stay focused on Jesus**

Since we are surrounded by so many examples of faith, we must get rid of everything that slows us down, especially sin that distracts us. We must run the race that lies ahead of us and never give up. We must focus on Jesus, the source and goal of our faith. He saw the joy ahead of him, so he endured death on the cross and ignored the disgrace it brought him. Then he received the highest position in heaven, the one next to the throne of God. Think about Jesus, who endured opposition from sinners, so that you don't become tired and give up.

Hebrews 12:1-3 (GOD'S WORD)