

What's the Point of the Pain?

(How faith flourishes over time not overnight)
(SERIES: When You're Going Through Hell . . . ; 01 of 11)
by Dr. David Foster

"Then He said to them, 'My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and watch with Me.' He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, 'O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; **nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will.**'"
(Mat 26:38)

The True Truth

Life is **painful**.

"Mortals, born of woman, **are of few days and full of trouble**. They spring up like flowers and wither away; like fleeting shadows, they do not endure." (Job 14:1-2 NIV)

Life with God is **painful**.

Pain + **purpose** + **process** = **a flourishing, fruitful faith**.

"... this is love for God: to keep his commands. And his commands are not burdensome, for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world? Only the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God." (1 Joh 5:3-5 NIV)

The Process

"Even though Jesus was God's Son, **he learned obedience from the things he suffered**. In this way, God qualified him as a perfect High Priest, and he became the source of eternal salvation for all those who obey him." (Hebrews 5:7-9 NLT)

You will be **tempted**.

"Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. The tempter came to him and said, 'If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.' Jesus answered, 'It is written: "Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God."' (Matt 4:1-4)

You will be **tested**.

"Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. 'If you are the Son of God,' he said, 'throw yourself down. For it is written: "He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone."' Jesus answered him, 'It is also written: "**Do not put the Lord your God to the test.**"' (Matt 4:5-7)

You will face **trials**.

"'Again, . . . down and worship me.' Jesus said to him, 'Away from me, Satan! For it is written: "Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only." Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.' (Matt 4:8-11)

The Plan

Show up and **move forward**.

Submit and **morph**.

"...we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. For those God foreknew **he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son**," (Romans 8:28-30 NIV)

Study and **mature**.

"Do not forsake wisdom, and she will protect you; love her, and she will watch over you. The beginning of wisdom is this: Get wisdom. Though it cost all you have, get understanding. Cherish her, and she will exalt you; embrace her, and she will honor you." (Prov 4:5 NIV)