

A Hell Called “Why Me, Why Now, What For?”

(Why growing up is hard to do)

SERIES: When You’re Going Through Hell . . . ; (03 of 11)
by Dr. David Foster

“But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed.”
(2 Corint 4:7-9 NIV)

God’s Got a Goal

It is not your **devastation**.

“The Lord isn’t really being slow about his promise, as some people think. No, he is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to be destroyed, but wants everyone to repent.” (2 Pet 3:9 NLT)

It is not your **reformation**.

It is your **transformation**.

Since I matter to God...

“And 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**, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.”
(Romans 8:28-30 NIV)

He resists my **short-sighted prayers**.

He refuses to **fix me**.

“His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life . . . For this very reason, **make every effort to add to your faith** goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love. For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But whoever does not have them is nearsighted and blind, forgetting that they have been cleansed from their past sins. Therefore, my brothers and sisters, **make every effort to confirm your calling and election**. For if you do these things, you will never stumble,” (2 Peter 1:3-10 NIV)

He is committed to **the process**.

“And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.” (Rom 8)

“For you, God, tested us; you **refined** us like silver.” (Psa 66:9)

The 3 Levels of Change

Changing my mind by **renewal**.

“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.” (Rom 12:1-3 NIV)

Strengthening my will by **displacement**.

“Delight yourself in the LORD and he will give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him and he will do this.” (Psa 37)

Changing my emotions by **self-discipline**.