

December 29, 2013

Learning From The Hurts of Life

Selected Scripture

God wants to use whatever pain we are going through in life – emotional, physical, financial, relational, spiritual – to move us toward His purposes for our life. And He doesn't want us to waste a single one of our hurts.

Five Biblical Purposes For Every Person's Life:

1. **Worship**
2. **Fellowship**
3. **Discipleship**

*"Most people waste their pain,
never harness their hurt, and never
learn life's lessons from their
heartaches."*

--Pastor Tim

*"God whispers to us in our pleasures,
speaks to us in our conscience, but shouts
in our pains. It is His megaphone to rouse
a deaf world."*

--C.S. Lewis

4. Ministry

5. Evangelism

What Our Hurts Can Do...

1. **Help Draw Us Closer To God** (*II Corinthians 1:8-10 TLB*)

Rick Warren...After The Death of His 27 Year Old Son Matthew:

"When Matthew died it forced me to go deeper with God than I've ever had to go in my entire life. I've always spent time with God every day. I've had a quiet time for most of my life, where I sit down and I spend time talking to God, reading his Word, listening to him, and talking to him in prayer. But today I'm a changed person. Because I'm not spending a quiet time with God every day – I am spending hours, hours and hours with God every day. Just listening, thinking, meditating, praying, reading the Word, reading good Scriptures, reading good books and things like that. Because I wanted my pain to draw me closer to God not further away from him."

2. **Help Draw Us Closer To Others** (*Galatians 6:2 BBE*)

Food for thought:

"Real love isn't simply in the giving of roses, chocolates, and candies; real love actually changes out bandages and bedpans. Real love serves, and doesn't only talk."

3. **Help Us Become More Like Jesus** (*II Corinthians 7:11 MSG*)

Pastor Tim: *The secret of every person who succeeds in life, every winner – whether it be in business, sports, marriage, finances, or church – is one word: resilience. It is the ability to bounce back.*

4. **Help Us Help Others** (*II Corinthians 1:4 TLB*)

Rick Warren:

“Nobody lives a pain-free life. If you’re going to have pain – and you know you’re going to have it – why not at least get some credit for it? You don’t get credit for your pain by mumbling, moaning, and complaining. You don’t get credit for your pain by pulling yourself into a self-centered person and ignoring the needs of other people. You don’t get credit for your pain by feeling sorry for yourself and having a pity party. You get credit for your pain by using it to help other people who are in the same kind of pain. God says that is the highest and best use of your pain, and you will be richly rewarded for it. Rather than focusing on my hurt, my feelings, or, how I feel bad - I refocus it on the pain of others.”

Lance Breedlove:

“I wish divorce on no one, but after going through it, I desire to help everyone. I want my pain to enable me to keep someone else from going through the same hurt I’ve gone through.”

5. **Help Us Witness to a Christ-less World** (*Philippians 1:12 TLB*)

Pastor Tim: *Our friends are more impressed with how we handle adversity than they are in how we handle prosperity. How we handle pain and suffering can actually give us credibility.*

This Week’s Homework:

1. Write down the most painful experience in life you have ever gone through.
2. Write down the name of a person you know who is going through that same exact crisis right now.

*You have now discovered your ministry in life:
to help someone get through what you have gone through.*