

Joyride

Understanding God's Purpose

Pastor Joe Wright

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¹² Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling,

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¹³ for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose. ¹⁴ Do everything without complaining or arguing, ¹⁵ so that you may become blameless and pure,

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children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe, ¹⁶ as you hold out the word of life—in order that I may boast

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on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor for nothing. ¹⁷ But even if I am being poured out like a drink offering on the sacrifice and service coming from your faith,

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I am glad and rejoice with all of you. ¹⁸ So you too should be glad and rejoice with me.

Philippians 2:12-18

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You can endure a lot more pain
if you are convinced it has a
positive purpose.

7

“All things work together for good
for those who love God. . .”
(Romans 8:28)

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“Even if God slays me,
I will still trust Him...”
(Job 13:15)

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“It is God who works in you to will
and to act according to His
good purpose.”
(Philippians 2:13)

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Why Does God
Permit Suffering?
• To develop our *maturity*

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“Therefore my dear friends,
as you have always obeyed,
not only in my presence, but
now much more in my
absence; continue to work
out your salvation, with fear
and trembling.”

Philippians 2:12

12

“The wages of sin is death,
but the gift of God is eternal
life, through Jesus Christ our
Lord.”

Romans 6:23

13

“God began a good work in
you, and He will carry it on
to completion, until the day
of Jesus Christ.”

Philippians 1:6

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“Salvation is a *gift*, and it’s a *growth*.”

(Paul Reese, Christian Author)

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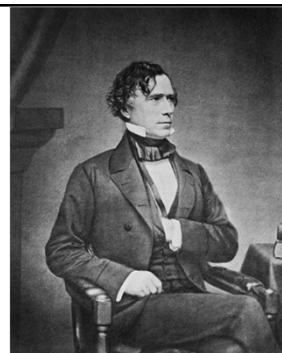
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Be Patient With Me,
God Isn’t Finished With Me Yet

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They don’t get *better*, they get *bitter*.
They don’t *grow*, they *regress*.

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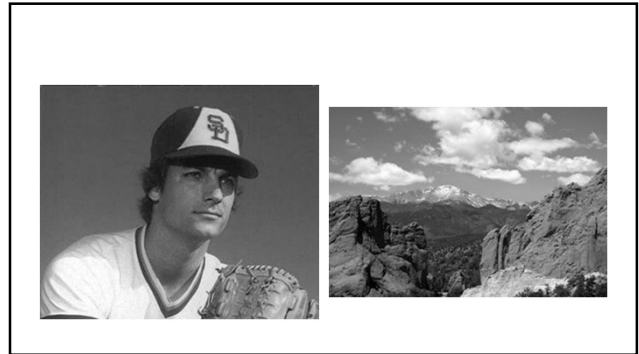


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There is almost no growth on the *mountaintop*; the growth occurs in the *valley*.

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“Consider it pure joy, my brethren, whenever you face trials of any kind, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance, and perseverance must finish it’s work, so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.” (James 1:2-4)

22

It is God who works in you, to will and to act according to his good purpose.
Philippians 2:13

23

“Endure hardship as discipline. God disciplines us for our good that we may share in His Holiness. No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but rather painful. Later on, however,

24

it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it. Therefore, strengthen your feeble arms, and your weak knees.”

Hebrews 12:7-11

25

Why Does God Permit Suffering?

- To develop our *maturity*
- To enhance our *testimony*

26

“... so that you may become blameless and pure in a crooked and depraved generation in which we shine like the stars of the universe.” (Philippians 2:15)

27

Three essential ingredients to an effective testimony:

1. Faithful obedience

28

“Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, men will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ.”

2 Corinthians 9:13

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Three essential ingredients to an effective testimony:

1. Faithful obedience
2. A pleasant spirit

30

“Do everything without complaining or arguing.”
(Philippians 2:14)

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“Even if I am being poured out like a drink offering on the sacrifice, I am glad, and I rejoice with all of you! So, you, too, should be glad and rejoice with me!”
(Philippians 2:17-18)

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Laughter helps control pain in four ways

1. It distracts
2. It reduces tension
3. It changes our expectations
4. It increases endorphins

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Laughter, as strange as it may seem, turns our minds from our seriousness and pain, and actually creates a degree of anesthesia. By diverting our attention, from our situation, laughter enables us to take a brief excursion away from our pain."

(Charles Swindoll, Christian Author)

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"A cheerful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones." (Proverbs 17:32)

39

Tears cleanse the heart,
but laughter eases the tension.

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Three essential ingredients to an effective testimony:

1. Faithful obedience
2. A pleasant spirit
3. Verbal affirmation

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"You will shine like stars in the universe, as you hold out the word of life, in order that I may boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor for nothing."

Philippians 2:16

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“Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.”

Matthew 5:16

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When you suffer hardship, learn to develop a *verbal testimony*.

45

“Always be prepared to give a reason for the hope you have. . .”
(1 Peter 3:15)

46

“The jailer fell down at Paul’s feet and said, ‘What do I have to do to be saved.’”

(Acts 16:29)

“Paul said, ‘you believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved.’”

(Acts 16:31)

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