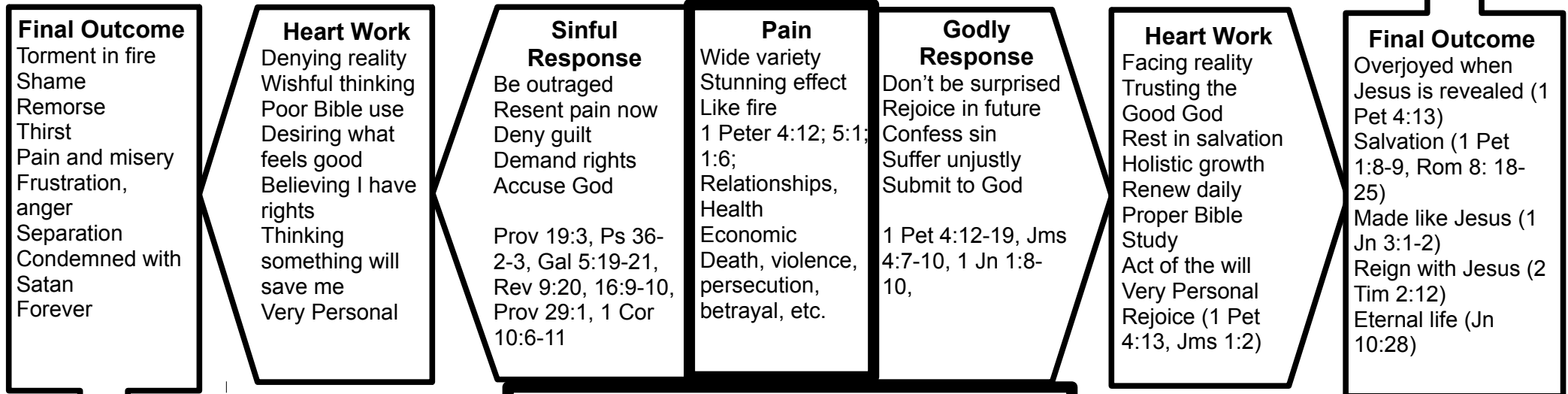


Changing through Suffering

Eternal Glory

Faithless Response

Faith Response



Some Reasons for Pain

1. To cause the Gospel to flourish (Phil 1, Acts 8:4)
2. Personal discipline (1 Cor 11:29-30, Heb 12:4-13)
3. It drives believers to study Scripture (Ps 119:71, Hb 2:10)
4. To honour God (Jn 9:3)

Eternal Suffering

Adams' Comments On Responses To Suffering:

How do unbelievers (and, alas, all too many Christians) respond to suffering and pain? By whining and self-pity (seen in every sort of situation from handicapped and shut-ins to disappointed lovers), denial (actually this futile attempt so focuses one's efforts on the pain that it actually can intensify it), seeking relief at all costs (the TV commercial and medical mentality seeks "pain-killers," tranquilizers, etc., but never meaning in suffering; pain is always an enemy, never a friend to such persons).

Rightly viewed and used, pain must be interpreted biblically and applied biblically. Otherwise pain may be wasted, misused, dreaded bitterly, fought, hated. (Adams, J.E., 1986. *A Theology of Christian Counseling*)

5 Sources Of Suffering

1. Suffering may be caused by satanic activity. Job 1–2; Luke 13:15–16; Acts 10:38
2. Suffering may be caused by ungodly men. 2 Tim. 4:14
3. Suffering may be caused by this world's system. 2 Pet. 2:8
4. Suffering may be caused by the believer's own fallen nature. Rom. 7:14–23
5. Suffering may be caused by carnal Christians. Phil 1:15–16; 2 Tim. 4:10

13 Proper Reactions To Suffering

1. Expect suffering. John 15:19–20; 16:2, 20, 33; Heb. 12:9–10; 2 Tim. 3:12
2. Commit your soul to God at the very beginning of your suffering. Ps. 3:5–6; 37:3; 31:5; Dan. 3:14–18; Heb. 6:17–20; 1 Pet. 4:19
3. Don't try to understand all the reasons for your suffering. Rom. 8:28

4. Realize others suffer. 1 Cor. 10:13; 1 Pet. 5:8–9
5. Pray while in your suffering. Ps. 50:15; Job 42:10; James 5:13; Mark 9:20–24
6. Don't despise your suffering. Heb. 12:5
7. Don't faint because you're suffering. Prov. 24:10; Heb. 12:5
8. Patiently endure your suffering in a steadfast way. Rom. 12:12; 2 Tim. 2:3; James 5:10; 1 Pet. 2:20
9. Thank God for your sufferings. Ps. 42:5; 1 Thess. 5:18
10. Rejoice because of your sufferings. Acts 5:40–41; 16:25; Phil. 4:4; James 1:2; 5:11
11. Don't become a self-made martyr because of your sufferings. Heb. 12:12–13
12. Don't suffer needlessly. 1 Pet. 2:20; 3:17; 4:15–17
13. Weigh your current suffering against the coming glory. John 16:20–21; Rom. 8:18

5 Reasons Why Christians Suffer

1. To produce the fruit of patience. Rom. 5:3; James 1:3–4; Heb. 10:36
2. To produce the fruit of joy. Ps. 30:5; 126:5–6
3. To produce the fruit of maturity. Eccles. 7:3; 1 Pet. 5:10
4. To produce the fruit of righteousness. Heb. 12:11
5. To silence the devil. Job 1:9, 10, 20–22
6. To teach us. Ps. 119:67, 71
7. To purify our lives. Job 23:10; Ps. 66:10–12; Isa. 1:25; 48:10; Prov. 17:3; 1 Pet. 1:7
8. To make us like Christ. Heb. 12:9, 10; 1 Pet. 4:12–13; Phil. 3:10; 2 Cor. 4:7–10
9. To glorify God. Ps. 50:15; John 9:1–3; 11:1–4;

10. To prevent us from sinning	21:18–19; Phil. 1:19–20
11. To make us confess when we do sin	2 Cor. 12:7, 9–10
12. To chasten us for our sin	Judg. 10:6–7, 15–16; Ps. 32:3–5; Hos. 5:15; 6:1; 2 Chron. 15:3–4
13. To prove our sonship	1 Pet. 4:17
14. To reveal ourselves to ourselves	Heb. 12:5–6
15. To help our prayer life	Job 42:6; Luke 15:18
16. To become an example to others	Isa. 26:16
17. To qualify us as counselors	2 Cor. 6:4–5; 1 Thess. 1:6–7
18. To further the gospel witness	Rom. 12:15; Gal. 6:2; 2 Cor. 1:3–5
19. To make us more than conquerors	Acts 8:1–5; 16:25–34; Phil. 1:12–13; 2 Tim. 4:6–8, 16–17
20. To give us insight into God's nature	2 Cor. 2:14; Rom. 8:35, 37
21. To drive us closer to God	Job 42:5; Rom. 8:14–15, 18
22. To prepare us for a greater ministry	1 Pet. 4:14; 2 Cor. 12:10
23. To provide for us a reward	1 Kings 17–18; John 12:24
24. To prepare us for the kingdom	Matt. 5:10–12; 19:27–29; Rom. 8:16–17; 2 Cor. 4:17
25. To show God's sovereignty	2 Thess. 1:5; 2 Tim. 2:12
	Rom. 8:28; 1 Cor. 10:13; Ps. 66:10–12; Gen. 45:5–8; 50:20

HELL (Eternal Suffering)

1. Hell will be a place of unquenchable fire Matt. 3:12; 13:41–42; Mark 9:43
2. It will be a place of memory and remorse. Luke 16:19–31
3. It will be a place of thirst. Luke 16:24
4. It will be a place of misery and pain. Rev. 14:10, 11
5. It will be a place of frustration and anger. Matt. 13:42; 24:51
6. It will be a place of separation. Rev. 2:11; 20:6, 15
7. It will be a place of undiluted divine wrath. Hab. 3:2; Rev. 14:10
8. It was originally prepared for Satan and his hosts. Matt. 25:41
9. It will be a place created for all eternity. Dan. 12:2; Matt. 25:46; Jude 7

Other Texts: The Eternal Punishment Of The Wicked

Matt. 3:12; Matt. 10:28; Matt. 18:8; Matt. 25:41, 46; Mark 3:29; Luke 3:17; John 5:29; Heb. 6:2; Heb. 10:28–31; Jude 7; Rev. 14:10, 11; Rev. 19:3; Rev. 20:10

Other Texts: The Reward Of Believers:

Matt. 10:32 Luke 12:8. Matt. 16:24–27; Matt. 20:1–16; Matt. 25:34–46; Mark 10:21; Mark 13:13; Luke 6:22, 23, 35; Acts 26:18; Rom. 2:10; 1 Cor. 3:8; Heb. 10:34, 36; Heb. 11:26; Heb. 12:1, 2, 28; 1 Pet. 3:9–12; 2 Pet. 1:10, 11; Rev. 2:10, 17, 25–28; Rev. 7:14–17; Rev. 22:12

Lists from Willmington, H.L., 1987. *Willmington's book of Bible Lists*