



“Listening to Hear God’s Voice in Pain”

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“The total amount of suffering per year in the natural world is beyond all decent contemplation... In a universe of blind physical forces and genetic replication, some people are going to get hurt, other people are going to get lucky, and you won’t find any rhyme or reason in it, nor any justice. The universe that we observe has precisely the properties we should expect if there is, at bottom, no design, no purpose, no evil, no good, nothing but pitiless indifference.” ~Richard Dawkins, author of The God Delusion

“Pain insists upon being attended to. God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our conscience, but shouts in our pain: it is His megaphone to rouse a deaf world.” – C.S. Lewis from The Problem of Pain

Understanding the Messages in Pain

Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.—James 1:2-4

“Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows.” - John 16:33b

1. Through Pain God Speaks to the Source of Our _____

*Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds,
- James 1:2*

2. Through Pain God Speaks to Us of Our Need for _____

*Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds
- James 1:2*

3. Through Pain God Speaks to Our _____ What We Know in Our _____

for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness.—James 1:3

“I will never leave you nor forsake you.” - Hebrews 13:5b

“The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit.”
- Psalm 34:18

4. Through Pain God Speaks to the Need for Our _____ to _____

Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I keep your word.—Psalm 119:67

for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. - James 1:3

In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. - 1 Peter 1:6-7

5. Through Pain God Speaks to His _____

And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. - James 1:4

(Joy, One another, Hearts, Heads, Faith, Grow, Faithfulness)

Memory verse: *The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit.” - Psalm 34:18*

My Next Step Today is...

- Memorize Psalm 34:18
- How have you found joy in trials?
- What frustrates you the most in times of pain?
- How have you seen God’s faithfulness in your pain?
- I want to talk to someone about receiving Christ as my Savior.

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Next Week’s sermon - “Who are you talking to?”