

Where Is God When Life Gets Tough?
God's Purpose in Suffering #3
Prevent Conceit in Us & Make Us Strong
First Christian Church—May 24, 2020
Chuck Foreman, Teaching/Missions Pastor

I'm not *ALL THAT!*

God wants us to grasp that we are not at center stage in the universe; he is!...

He wants to get it through our heads that he is not our Genie! He does not exist to serve us; we exist to serve him! Unfortunately, suffering and humiliation are usually the only ways we ever arrive at this important, but nearly always missed, conclusion about him and about ourselves! 😊

GOD's Story— God's Purpose in Suffering #3:
Prevent Conceit in Us & Make Us Strong

1. Paul's Experience, 2 Corinthians 12:7-10

What Suffering Does:

- Reveals our weakness
- Makes us dependent on God's grace
- Allows us to experience God's power
- Makes us strong

2. Our Response to Suffering, 1 Peter 5:5b-11

What God Wants:

- Humble Ourselves!
- Give our anxiety to him
- Be alert and sober...
- Resist the Devil
- Stand Firm—you are not alone in your suffering!
- God's Promise: He will restore you, make you strong, firm & steadfast

Big Idea:

Bad News: Suffering is part of the deal! It's the only way to prevent conceit in us.

Good News: God uses suffering to make us humble and dependent on him for our strength.
God's purpose in our suffering is always something good!

Right On!

(N.T. Scripture: Romans 12:3, 9-16)