

# TRUSTING UNDER AFFLICTION

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“We often confuse having *faith* in God with *trusting* in God. Faith is a noun, something you possess. Trust, on the other hand, is a verb. It is something you do or act upon. It is a willful choice, a deliberate action, and can only grow out of your faith.”

~Henry Morris

## How can we act out our trust in God in our suffering?

### I. We can recognize His sovereignty.

- Isaiah 37:26
- Isaiah 45:7
- Amos 3:6

#### A. *Our individual stories are written by Him.*

- Jeremiah 1:5
- Psalm 139:15-16
- Job 23:14
- Ephesians 2:10

#### B. *Our burdens, afflictions, and trials are a stewardship.*

- Psalm 55:22
- 2 Corinthians 12:7

“If we truly believe that God is sovereign, then nothing happens in life that isn’t a call to stewardship in some form.”

~Tim Challies

## II. We can rest in His character.

- Isaiah 55:8-9
- We don't trust in what God is doing because we don't know what He is doing. We trust in who God is!

### A. *He is good!*

- 2 Chronicles 16:9
- Isaiah 63:9

### B. *He is powerful!*

- Jeremiah 32:17
- “He makes us wait. He keeps us on purpose in the dark. He makes us walk when we want to run, sit still when we want to walk, for He has things to do in our souls that we are not interested in.” ~Elizabeth Elliot

### C. *He is merciful!*

- Isaiah 30:18
- Isaiah 53:4

### D. *He is present!*

- Jeremiah 23:23, 24
- Psalm 139:7-12
- Psalm 145:18
- “We need never shout across the spaces to an absent God. He is nearer than our own soul, closer than our most secret thoughts.” A.W. Tozer

### III. We can hope in His purpose.

Hebrews 12:10, 11

A. *He is working all our suffering for our good.*

#### 1. He is transforming us.

- Romans 8:28
- Philippians 1:6

“God does not send us two classes of providence—one good, and one evil. All are good. Affliction is God’s goodness in the seed. It takes time for a seed to grow and to develop into fruitfulness. Many of the best things of our lives come to us first as pain, suffering, earthly loss or disappointment—black seeds without beauty—but afterward they grow into the rich harvest of righteousness.” ~J. R. Miller

#### 2. He is teaching us submission.

- Hebrews 5:8
- Philippians 2:8
- Psalm 119:67
- 1 Peter 5:6-7

“There is only one way of victory over the bitterness and rage that come naturally to us—to will what God wills brings peace.”

~Amy Carmichael

B. *He is using all of it for His glory.*

#### 1. In our world-

“Tenacious suffering, though tearful, magnifies God’s trustworthiness. It magnifies God in the eyes of others... and it delights God’s heart as nothing else can.”

~Layton Talbert

#### 2. Beyond our world-

“At the root of God’s dealings with fallen people is His intention to display dimensions of His character to a spiritual world that we never see and rarely consider.” ~Layton Talbert

- 1 Corinthians 4:9
- Ephesians 6:12
- 2 Peter 1:3

#### **IV. We cannot fully understand suffering, but we can submit ourselves to the trustworthiness of God.**

- 2 Corinthians 4:16-18
- Psalm 56:8
- 1 Peter 1:6, 13
- Revelation 21:4
- Isaiah 43:1-3
- Psalm 34:17-20 When the righteous cry for help, the LORD hears and delivers them out of all their troubles. The LORD is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit. Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the LORD delivers him out of them all.

#### **Favorite resources:**

- *Beyond Suffering: Discovering the Message of Job* by Layton Talbert
- *Christ's Sympathy to Weary Pilgrims* by Octavius Winslow
- *Not by Chance: Learning to Trust a Sovereign God* by Layton Talbert
- *Suffering* by Paul David Tripp
- *Suffering is Never for Nothing* by Elizabeth Elliot
- *When God Weeps: Why Our Sufferings Matter to the Almighty* by Joni Eareckson Tada