

only king forever

September 10, 2017

My perspective on a situation greatly impacts how I endure that situation.

Agree Disagree

At the bottom of the mountain:

I'll never be happy again – _____

Nothing good can come from this – _____

There's no point in continuing – _____

- Is God willing to prevent evil, but not able? *Then He is not all powerful.*

- Is He able, but not willing? *Then He is not loving.*

- Is He both able and willing? *Then why does evil exist?*

- Is He neither able nor willing? *Then why call Him God?*

- Epicurus

³² And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets—³³ who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions,³⁴ quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, were made strong out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight.³⁵ Women received back their dead by resurrection.

Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, so that they might rise again to a better life.³⁶ Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment.³⁷ They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword. They went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, mistreated—³⁸ of whom the world was not worthy—wandering about in deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth.³⁹ And all these, though commended through their faith, did not receive what was promised. Hebrews 11:32-39 (NIV)

What do you do at the bottom of the mountain?

1. Remember God's _____

- Eternal
- Good Father
- Gracious Lord
- Just Judge
- Holy God
- Loving King
- Merciful Master
- Sovereign Savior
- Patient

(continued)

2. Trust God's _____

A. God has established _____ as the ultimate equalizer (Eccl. 8:14)

B. God _____ with us in our suffering (Mt. 27:51; Heb. 4:15)

C. God turns symbols of suffering into symbols of _____.

(Num. 21:1 Peter 2:24-25)

When you face a setback, don't take a step back, because
God is preparing you for a _____ - Mark Batterson

World's way of interpreting suffering:

Anger, Resentment, Depression, Quitting, Self-Harm, Drunkenness

² Consider it a **great joy**, my brothers, whenever you experience various trials,
³ knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. ⁴ But endurance must
do its complete work, so that you may be mature and complete, lacking nothing.

James 1:2-4 (NIV)

Christian's way of interpreting suffering:

Training, Equipping, Sharpening, Maturing, Opportunity, Holiness

At the bottom of the mountain (Hebrews 12:1-2):

- I can be _____ again
- Something _____ can come from this
- There is a _____ to this pain

3. Be Grateful For God's _____

- God is _____
- God is _____
- God is _____

The Lord is not slow to fulfill His promise as some count slowness, but is patient
toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.

2 Peter 3:9 (NIV)

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