

Learning From Life Experiences – August 2022

Unfortunately, at this time in my life, my family and I have gone through a very tragic, very significant, loss. My husband's brother was the victim of a hit and run accident which happened only in early July. Beyond that, my husband and I have experienced years of significant loss in our personal life. As I have gone through much grieving over the last several years, I believe to the deepest fathoms of my heart that God has given me the best interpretation of why these things would happen to us. I came across a revelation in my own personal study time that deeply spoke to me:

“Now if we are children, then we are heirs-heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.”

Romans 8:17

It's natural to want to know why suffering happens to us in this life. More specifically, why would an all loving, good God, let us experience unimaginable moments which weren't a result of any bad choice or consequence and are completely out of our control? This was one of those times for me. After battling in my mind with anger at God for so long I understand what I believe he was trying to make me see in Romans 8:17. Reflection: The Lord our God came in the form of a human simply to die on the cross and save us all for our sins. If that doesn't make you see why sharing in his sufferings is a blessing – then I don't know what will.

Sometimes in our pain, we can get so caught up in the misery of it all that we forget to think with proper perspective. When our minds are not clouded by wounded emotions, and when we are able to look back on a situation we're going through with mindfulness. It's why in these moments we need the Lord even more, need even more prayer from others, and have to get to a point where it's okay to allow ourselves to not be ok. And for me, it was a hard thing to swallow that despite how angry I was, that I couldn't blame God. Because I believed in his Word, and I needed to trust that He wouldn't let me experience something so horrible in my life without a purpose. It is in the words, we share in His sufferings, that lead me straight back to the cross. And with that in mind, no matter how painful or difficult these trials may be, keeping the strength of God (Ps. 73:26) in my heart knowing he has done so much more for me, much more than I could ever completely comprehend in this life!

The truth is that no matter whether God intervenes to protect us from suffering, or doesn't prevent it, it's the fact that what Jesus Christ endured on the cross on behalf of us all weighs more. And we only can imagine the glories to come.