



Pivotal Circumstances

I. The Problem of Pain

- Today, no part of creation _____ as God originally _____ it.
- God is not the _____ of pain, but He is the _____.

II. The Purpose of Pain

- God leverages _____ pain to do _____ good.

Romans 8:18

I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.

- The _____ of God's plan is greater than the _____ of your pain.
- Suffering is _____ and _____.
- God allows evil to exist so that we might see the _____ for what it is and seek _____ for who He is.
- God will leverage whatever means necessary to _____ your _____.

"God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our consciences, but shouts in our pain. It is His megaphone to rouse a deaf world." - C.S. Lewis

- We must view present suffering through the _____ of _____.
- Pain and suffering weakens our attachment to this _____ and strengthens our dependence on _____.

James 1:2-4

Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, ³because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. ⁴Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

God uses pivotal circumstances to do something in us, not to us.

III. Understanding the Presence of Pain (John 11:1-45)

- Jesus _____ your pain.
- Jesus hasn't _____ your pain but has a new _____ from it.
- We need Christian _____ to _____ our pain.
- When you feel like God is doing something *to* you, you will lose _____. When you believe that he is doing something *in* you and *through* you, your faith will _____.
- Nothing in life draws you into His _____ like _____.

Psalms 23:1-4

The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not be in want. ²He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, ³he restores my soul. He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. ⁴Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.