

Six Guidestones That Help Me Grow Through Pain

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1 Corinthians 13:12, LB – ...We can see and understand only a little about God now, as if we were peering at his reflection in a poor mirror; but someday we are going to see him in his completeness, face-to-face. Now all that I know is hazy and blurred, but then I will see everything clearly, just as clearly as God sees into my heart right now.

John 13:7, NIV – Jesus replied, “You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand.”

Sharing their story: Cathy and Dave Semeria

Romans 5:3, NLT – We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop...

God uses pain and problems _____

Romans 5:3-4, NLT – We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation.

Hebrews 5:8, NLT – Even though Jesus was God’s Son, he learned obedience from the things he suffered.

Romans 8:17, NLT – And since we are his children, we are his heirs. In fact, together with Christ we are heirs of God’s glory. But if we are to share his glory, we must also share his suffering.

Psalms 119:105, NIV – Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.

1. Through pain, God _____

Job 36:15, NCV – But God saves those who suffer through their suffering; he gets them to listen through their pain.

Job 36:15, CEV – Hard times and trouble are God’s way of getting our attention!

Psalms 25:9, NIV – He guides the humble in what is right and teaches them his way.

2. Through pain, God _____

Hebrews 12:7-8, NLT – As you endure this divine discipline, remember that God is treating you as his own children. Who ever heard of a child who is never disciplined by [his] father? ⁸ If God doesn't discipline you as he does all of his children, it means that you are illegitimate and are not really his children at all.

Psalms 119:71-72, CEV – When you corrected me, it did me good because it taught me to study your laws. I would rather obey you than to have a thousand pieces of silver and gold.

Hebrews 12:11, NLT – No discipline is enjoyable while it is happening—it's painful! But afterward there will be a peaceful harvest of right living for those who are trained in this way.

3. Through pain, God _____

Isaiah 48:10, NIV – See, I have refined you, though not as silver; I have tested you in the furnace of affliction.

Matthew 5:8, NIV – [Jesus said,] “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.”

4. Through pain, God _____

Romans 12:3, NIV – Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you.

5. Through pain, God _____

Psalms 119:50, NIV – My comfort in my suffering is this: Your promise preserves my life.

Lamentations 3:33, GNT – [God] takes no pleasure in causing us grief or pain.

6. Through pain, God _____

1 Peter 5:10, NCV – In his kindness God called you to share in his eternal glory by means of Christ Jesus. So after you have suffered a little while, he will restore, support, and strengthen you, and he will place you on a firm foundation.

What might God be doing through your pain? We don't always know (at least, not yet; see John 13:7 above). But we do know *God is always good*. Rest assured that God has a plan for your pain, whatever it may be. Giving it to him means salvation, healing, help, hope, growth, guidance, renewal, and reward. He loves you with an everlasting love.