



May 3, 2026

Learning #1: We question if God cares when we experience pain.

John 16:33 (NLT) - *Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows.*

Job 2:9 (NLT) - *Are you still trying to maintain your integrity? Curse God and die.*

Jeremiah 20:18 (NLT) - *Why was I ever born? My entire life has been filled with trouble, sorrow, and shame.*

Learning #2: Pain can be an invitation to grow in our faith.

1 Peter 1:6-7 (NLT) - *So be truly glad. There is wonderful joy ahead, even though you must endure many trials for a little while. These trials will show that your faith is genuine. It is being tested as fire tests and purifies gold—though your faith is far more precious than mere gold. So when your faith remains strong through many trials, it will bring you much praise and glory and honor on the day when Jesus Christ is revealed to the whole world.*

Philippians 1:6 (NLT) - *And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns.*

Learning #3: God often works in our pain to grow our impact.

2 Corinthians 11:23-27 (NLT) - *I have worked harder, been put in prison more often, been whipped times without number, and faced death again and again. Five different times the Jewish leaders gave me thirty-nine lashes. Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. Three*

times I was shipwrecked. Once I spent a whole night and a day adrift at sea.

I have traveled on many long journeys. I have faced danger from rivers and from robbers. I have faced danger from my own people, the Jews, as well as from the Gentiles. I have faced danger in the cities, in the deserts, and on the seas. And I have faced danger from men who claim to be believers but are not. I have worked hard and long, enduring many sleepless nights. I have been hungry and thirsty and have often gone without food. I have shivered in the cold, without enough clothing to keep me warm.

Learning #4: The greatest impact came from God's greatest pain.

John 3:16 (NLT) - For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.

Hebrews 4:15 (NLT) - This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses, for he faced all of the same testings we do, yet he did not sin.

2 Corinthians 12:9-10 (NLT) - So now I am glad to boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ can work through me. That's why I take pleasure in my weaknesses, and in the insults, hardships, persecutions, and troubles that I suffer for Christ. For when I am weak, then I am strong.