

Why God Allows Suffering

- Why?

Even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you are blessed.

—1 Peter 3:14, NKJV

Within a period of 18 months, I went through a cluster of storms that left me emotionally gasping for breath. From Hurricane Fran, which downed 102 trees in our yard, to the fire that consumed my husband's dental office, to my son, Jonathan's, cancer and surgery, to my parents' increasingly fragile health that had included multiple hospitalizations, to a home remodeling project that involved a contractor who took our money but refused to do the work, I reeled from one emergency or crisis to another.

Looking back over that 18-month period, my thoughtful, confident conclusion is that God allowed the storms of suffering to increase and intensify in my life because He wanted me to soar higher in my relationship with Him—to fall deeper in love with Him.

Faith that triumphantly soars is possible only when the winds of life are contrary to personal comfort. That kind of faith is God's ultimate purpose in allowing us to encounter storms of suffering. Trust Him!

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