

***God Will Not Bring Any Unnecessary  
Suffering Into Your Life***



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Can you remember a time when your dad or mom took you to the doctor to get a shot? Ouch! Shots are painful. Do you think your dad or mom enjoyed seeing you in pain? No, but they knew it was necessary to keep you from getting sick. They were willing to allow you to suffer because they knew it was ultimately for your good.

The Bible says God is our perfect, loving, heavenly Father. It also says God is sovereign; that he is in control of everything. Does this mean our lives will always be easy and that nothing bad will ever happen to us? No. In his kindness, God allows suffering to come into our lives. Why? Because it's necessary to help us grow closer to him. In times of suffering we realize that we need God, and that we are not able to solve all our problems. God uses suffering to deepen our faith, increase our patience, and teach us to depend on him. Yet, sometimes we blame God when bad things happen. We're tempted to think he has forgotten us or that he enjoys seeing us suffer. But that's not true! God never delights in suffering, and he doesn't allow us to suffer more than is necessary. God wants what's best for us. He allows suffering because he knows that a deeper trust in him is ultimately more valuable than a pain-free life.

- ☆ Ask your dad or mom to talk about a time when God used suffering to deepen their trust in him.
- ☆ Talk about a hard time that you or someone you know went through. What did God teach you? How has God used this in your life?
- ☆ How do you usually react to suffering? Now that you know these verses, how should you react? How can God help you to respond this way?