



My Prayers Aren't Answered

John 11:1, 3-6, 17-21: "Now a man named Lazarus was sick. He was from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha... **3** So the sisters sent word to Jesus, 'Lord, the one you love is sick.'**4** When he heard this, Jesus said, 'This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God's glory so that God's Son may be glorified through it.'**5** Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. **6** So when he heard that Lazarus was sick, he stayed where he was two more days... On his arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. **18** Now Bethany was less than two miles from Jerusalem, **19** and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them in the loss of their brother. **20** When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed at home.**21** 'Lord,' Martha said to Jesus, 'if you had been here, my brother would not have died...'"

Why pray if God isn't going to show up?

Suffering makes the world a better place

Isaiah 53:3: "...a man of suffering, and familiar with pain."

1 Peter 4:12,13: "Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. **13** But rejoice inasmuch as you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed."

Romans 5:3,4: "...we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; **4** perseverance, character; and character, hope."

James 1:2-5: "Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, **3** because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. **4** Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. **5** If any of you lacks wisdom..."

Psalms 119:67,71: Before I was afflicted, I went astray, but now I obey your word... It was good for me to be afflicted so that I might learn your decrees."

John 15:2: "He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes[a] so that it will be even more fruitful."

"There is no coming to consciousness without pain." Carl Jung

Genesis 1:28: "Be fruitful and increase in number..."

Matthew 28:19: "...go and make disciples of all nations."

_____ God to multiply His character through suffering and unanswered prayer.

All scriptures referenced are from the New International Version (NIV) translation of the Bible unless otherwise indicated.

Resource List

If you'd like to read more about this topic take a look at these resources.

Rabbi Steve Leder - More Beautiful than Before- How Suffering Transforms Us.

Tim Keller - Walking with God Through Pain and Suffering

The Lost World series by John Walton (6 volumes)

Viktor Frankl - Man's Search for Meaning

Max Lucado - You'll Get Through This

D. A. Carson - How Long O' Lord

Tremper Longman - Confronting Old Testament Controversies

Richard Stengel - Mandela's Way

Desmond Tutu - Book of Forgiving

Luc Ferry - A Brief History of Thought

Joshua Swamidass - The Genealogical Adam and Eve

G. K. Beale and Mitchell Kim - God Dwells Among Us

John Walton - The Book of Job