

A background image of marathon runners in motion, with their legs and feet visible. They are wearing athletic gear and race bibs with numbers like 231, 336, 391, and 400. The image has a warm, orange-red color cast.

PRESSING ON

TO MATURITY

A Study of the Book of Hebrews

FOR THOSE WHO HURT
HEBREWS 2:10-18

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Introduction: A national poll of adult Americans asked, “If you could ask God any question, what would it be?” The vast majority of respondents answered, “Why do You allow suffering in the world?” Today, the writer of Hebrews offers some reassuring answers to that question for those who are hurting.

I. The Perfection Of Suffering (Hebrews 2:10)

Hebrews 2:10 “For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things, and through whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to perfect the author of their salvation through sufferings.”

James 1:2-4 ² “Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, ³ Knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. ⁴ And let endurance have its perfect result, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.”

A. Suffering Is Certain

B. Suffering Is Varied

C. Suffering Is Profitable

James 1:13 “Let no one say when he is tempted, ‘I am being tempted by God’; for God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone.”

James 1:3-4 ³ “Knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. ⁴ And let endurance have its perfect result, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.”

II. The Perspective Of Suffering (Hebrews 2:11-13)

Hebrews 2:11-13 ¹¹ “For both He who sanctifies and those who are sanctified are all from one Father; for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren, ¹² saying, ‘I WILL PROCLAIM YOUR NAME TO MY BRETHREN, IN THE MIDST OF THE CONGREGATION I WILL SING YOUR PRAISE.’

¹³ And again, ‘I WILL PUT MY TRUST IN HIM.’ And again, ‘BEHOLD, I AND THE CHILDREN WHOM GOD HAS GIVEN ME.’”

Psalm 22:1 “My God, my God, why has Thou forsaken me? Far from my deliverance are the words of my groaning.”

Psalm 22:16-18 ¹⁶ “For dogs have surrounded me; a band of evildoers has encompassed me; they pierced my hands and my feet. ¹⁷ I can count all my bones. They look, they stare at me; ¹⁸ they divide my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots.”

Psalm 22:20-22 ²⁰ “Deliver my soul from the sword, my only life from the power of the dog. ²¹ Save me from the lion’s mouth; and from the horns of the wild oxen Thou dost answer me. ²² I will tell of Thy name to my brethren; in the midst of the assembly I will praise Thee.”

III. The Purpose Of Suffering (Hebrews 2:14-18)

A. In Jesus’ Life

1. Nullify the power of death (Hebrews 2:14-15)

Hebrews 2:14-15 ¹⁴ “Since then the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil; ¹⁵ and might deliver those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives.”

2. Satisfy the demands of God (Hebrews 2:16-17)

Hebrews 2:16-17 ¹⁶ “For assuredly He does not give help to angels, but He gives help to the descendant of Abraham. ¹⁷ Therefore, He had to be made like His brethren in all things, that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.”

Nahum 1:2-3a ² “A jealous and avenging God is the LORD; the LORD is avenging and wrathful. The LORD takes vengeance on His adversaries and He reserves wrath for His enemies. ^{3a} The LORD is slow to anger and great in power, and the LORD will by no means leave the guilty unpunished.”

3. **Identify with the sufferings of man** (Hebrews 2:18)

Hebrews 2:18 “For since He Himself was tempted in that which He has suffered, He is able to come to the aid of those who are tempted.”

Hebrews 4:15-16 ¹⁵ “For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶ Let us therefore draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and may find grace to help in time of need.”

Hebrews 4:11 “Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall through following the same example of disobedience.”

B. **In Our Life**

1. **Identify with the sufferings of others** (2 Corinthians 1:4)

2 Corinthians 1:4 “God comforts us in all our affliction so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted.”

2. **Satisfy the plan of God for our life** (Romans 8:28-29)

Romans 8:28-29 ²⁸ “And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. ²⁹ For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the first-born among many brethren;”

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3. Nullify your fear of death (2 Corinthians 4:17-18)

2 Corinthians 4:17-18 ¹⁷ “For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison, ¹⁸ while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.”

Conclusion