

Weekly Action Report

Sierra's Weekly Action Plan:

Use the Message Action Plan below to help put the things you learned this weekend into practice. If you missed last weekend's message, [Click Here](#) to listen to it online.

The Great "Why" Question of Suffering- August 21st 2016

Job 1:8-22

The story of Job in the Old Testament is perhaps the best case study we have in scripture for how we can approach suffering and God's purposes for suffering to draw us to Him.

There are two keys in our understanding of evil and suffering in this world

1. God does not actively generate evil and suffering, Job's story clearly points to Satan as the author of suffering in this world.

So Satan went out from the presence of the Lord and afflicted Job. Job 2:7

2. God does, however, permit the use of evil and suffering and is in complete control over it.

¹²The LORD said to Satan, "Very well, then, everything he has is in your hands, but on the man himself do not lay a finger." Job 1:12

To what end is suffering used for God's purposes?

1. If God's people respond to suffering by not blaming God for it, Satan loses out on what he wanted suffering to do in our lives.

"Does Job fear God for nothing?" Satan replied. ¹¹ But stretch out your hand and strike everything he has, and he will surely curse you to your face."...²² In all this, Job did not sin by charging God with wrongdoing. Job 1:10,11,22

2. If God's people respond to suffering by not blaming God for it, our commitment to God grows deeper and our relationship grows more dependent upon Him.

Though he slay me, yet will I hope in him; Job 13:15

3. Seeking an answer to our why questions is another way of wanting to control God's work in this world. If God told us why, you will never become the kind of person suffering *can* make you.

And that's not all. We also *celebrate in seasons of suffering* because we know that when we suffer we develop endurance, 4 which shapes our characters. Romans 5: 3,4

Don't run from tests and hardships, brothers and sisters. As difficult as they are, *you will ultimately find joy in them; if you embrace them*, your faith will blossom under pressure and teach you true patience as you endure. James 1:2-4

Action Step: Stay connected to a God you can't control, and accept and embrace the mystery of not knowing why you're suffering, because that grows **faith**, **godly character**, and **endurance** to fight against the enemy in this world, and proves you love God for who he is alone.

Here's God's objective: through the church, *He intends now to make known His infinite and boundless wisdom to all rulers and authorities in heavenly realms*. 11 This has been His plan from the beginning, one that He has now accomplished through the Anointed One, Jesus our Lord. Ephesians 3:10,11

Two important things we learn from Job's response.

1. Trusting God alone doesn't mean we don't grieve. There wasn't some stoic resignation. He was hurt deeply by his loss and it showed.

At this, Job got up and tore his robe and shaved his head. verse 20

2. But in his emotional pain he holds on to God's goodness by faith.

"Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I will depart. The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away; may the name of the LORD be praised." verse 21

The reason I can't handle suffering is I believe the lie of Satan when suffering comes.

Action Step: We need to believe Satan is a liar and God loves us.

How do we know that? I don't know how Job knew it, but I can tell you how we know it.

But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners. Rom. 5:8

Since our friendship with God was restored by the death of his Son while we were still his enemies, we will certainly be saved through the life of his Son. Romans 5:10

Check out these verses they're mind blowing:

1. Jesus built and perfected human faith.

Now stay focused on Jesus, *who designed and perfected our faith*. He endured the cross ... 3

Consider the life of the One who endured such personal attacks and hostility from sinners so that you will not grow weary or lose heart. Hebrews 12:2,3

2. Here is God's Son: Creator, Sustainer, Great High Priest. Jesus has to take on our feeble flesh and suffer a violent death. Why? Because He suffers for what we need.

... Jesus, ...crowned with glory and honor because He *willingly suffered* and died. And He did that so that through God's grace, He might taste death on behalf of everyone. 10 It only makes sense that God, by whom and for whom everything exists, would choose to bring many of us to His side *by using suffering to perfect Jesus, the founder of our faith*, the pioneer of our salvation. Hebrews 2:9,10

"Jesus Christ suffered not that we would not suffer, but that when we suffer we could become like him." **Tim Keller**- Author of "**Walking With God Through Pain and Suffering**"

Action Step: If we are able to accept suffering as coming from God and not find fault with God for doing it, we are spiritually aligning ourselves with God's truth, and rejecting the lie that God can't be trusted. We can say along with Job, "**The LORD giveth and the LORD taketh away, Blessed be the name of the LORD.**"

Dan