

Transformed by Trouble

You're most profound and intimate experiences of worship will likely be in your darkest days. Everything that happens to you has a spiritual significance. What happens outwardly in your life is not as important as what happens inside you.

When we're in pain, we don't have the energy for superficial prayers.

When life is rosy, we may slide by with knowing about Jesus, with imitating him and quoting him and speaking of him. But only in suffering will we know Jesus? We learn things about God in suffering that we can't learn any other way.

Problems force us to look to God and depend on him instead of ourselves.

You'll never know that God is all you need until God is all you've got.

Because God is sovereignly in control, accidents are just incidents in God's good plan for you.

"We know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them. For God knew his people in advance, and he chose them to become like his son"
(Romans 8: 28 – 29)

When you've been refined by trials, people can see Jesus' reflection in you.

"If you look at the world, you'll be distressed. If you look within, you'll be depressed. But if you look at Christ, you'll be at rest"

God tells us to give thanks "in all circumstances" not "for all circumstances".

Character building is a slow process. Whenever we try to avoid or escape the difficulties in life, we short-circuit the process, delay our growth, and actually end up with a worse kind of pain – the worthless type that accompanies denial and avoidance. When you grasp the eternal consequences of your character development, you'll pray fewer "Comfort me" prayers ("Help me feel good") and more "Conform me" prayers ("Use this to make me more like you").

DON'T GIVE UP – GROW UP!

There is a purpose behind every problem.

18th August 2006 (Day 25 "The Purpose Driven Life" Rick Warren)