

Grace Unraveled
A Renewed Focus on God
2 Corinthians 1:3-11

The natural human inclination is self-centeredness. In one sense, we are naturally inclined to take care of ourselves and for good reasons. But in a fallen world, self-centeredness has the potential and tendency to become narcissistic in nature. Smart phones and social media did not create narcissism. They have simply captured and made evident the human capacity for self-worship.

1. Suffering should renew our _____ on worship
2. Suffering should point us to the God of _____
3. Suffering should teach us _____ in God's sovereignty
4. Suffering should give us patience to _____
5. Suffering should promote a gospel _____

Suffering comes from many different sources. Sometimes it comes from choices we make. Sometimes it comes from choices others make. Regardless of our circumstances and the reasons behind them, God is still infinitely sovereign and good. He will use suffering (whether allowed by Him or caused by Him) for our best interests and for the glory of His kingdom.

Reflection

How does our perspective on the character of God help define our response to crisis? How can our perspective on suffering be used to comfort others? How does suffering advance the gospel? Is it possible that with the right perspective that suffering in this life might actually make the kingdom more attractive than this world? If so, how can we leverage suffering in this world to advance the kingdom?