

Let God Be God
The Other Side of the Hurt
Job 42:1-17

Pop singer Kelly Clarkson sang, “What doesn’t kill you makes you stronger.” That song is specifically about the break-up of a relationship, and it tries to encourage people by promising that even though the break-up hurts, they will be stronger for it on the other side of the hurt. It seems to imply that we will be strong enough to put the pieces of our lives back together. But is that really the point of suffering for the sake of Christ?

1. We need to cultivate a right view of God.
2. We need to cultivate a right view of others.
3. We need to cultivate a right view of renewal.

God does not willingly afflict or grieve us. If it is necessary for our growth and spiritual well-being, He will allow grief to come into our lives, but He also promises to show us His unfailing love. When we hurt, He hurts with us. When we cry, He mingles His tears with our own. As a loving heavenly parent, He knows the heartache of hurting for a child, even when He must afflict that child to bring about repentance.

Reflection

What is happening in your life that may be challenging your view of the nature and character of God? What can you do to make sure that you cultivate a right view of God, even in the midst of the type of adversity we are experiencing now? Are there any friends or family members that you need to cultivate a right attitude towards? Are there relationships that have been damaged because you said, “I told you so,” instead of “I’ll pray for you.” Ask God to guide you through the process of reconciling with them. Ask Him to use you to share the gospel if they have yet to know Jesus as Savior. What do you miss about the fellowship of the church family? How will God use you to encourage others when we are once again able to assemble in corporate worship on our campuses?