

Broken But Blessed

(Psalm 66:10-12)

- Introduction:
1. “For you, oh God, have tested us; You have refined us as silver is refined. You brought us into the net; you laid affliction on our backs. You have caused men to ride over our heads; We went through fire and through water; but you brought us out to rich fulfillment” (Psalm 66:10-12).
 2. 2020 was a difficult year for all of us, but especially so for me.
 3. Today, I want to share with you some of the lessons I have learned from my walk with suffering.

I. Suffering is the Atheist’s Strongest Argument

- A. The atheist argues that the God of the Bible cannot exist since suffering exists.
- B. The God of the Bible is described as being:
 1. Omniscient (Is. 46:10)
 2. Omnipotent (Jer. 32:17)
 3. Omnibenevolent (Mark 10:18)

II. Suffering is not Inherently Evil

- A. Although Suffering is unpleasant, it can be good.
- B. (Psalm 119:71).
- C. Suffering refines us (Psalm 66:10-12).

III. Suffering is not a Sign of God’s Abandonment

- A. Noah (Gen. 6-8)
- B. Job (Job 1)
- C. Mary (Matt. 1)
- D. Paul (2 Cor. 11:24-28)
- E. Jesus (Matt. 27:46)

IV. Suffering Can Be Used to God’s Glory

- A. Ills. Kintsugi.
- B. (Psalm 51:17).
- C. No one wants to serve God in brokenness, but it may be more valuable.
- D. (Exodus 14:4, 18).
- E. (2 Kings 6:30) Wearing sackcloth underneath.
- F. (2 Corinthians 1:3-4) God is a God of all comfort.

V. Suffering Gives Us Perspective

- A. (Luke 7:44).
- B. (2 Kings 22:19-20) Josiah.
- C. This life is a vale of soul-making.

- Conclusion:
1. Friends, suffering is not pleasant, but it can bring us closer to God and cause people to glorify God.
 2. I want to close with a reminder... “God is good...all the time!”