

Why All People Suffer

How a loving God uses suffering to perfect us

Book by Dr Paul Chaloux

How can we talk about suffering in Easter?
How can we be joyful when we suffer?

Think about what Jesus' suffering and death on
the Cross lead to?!

Our salvation

JOY

Divine Action

God is active in each of our lives, in the *small details and big things*. He desires us to be like Him so that we can be together in eternity.

Tradition (as seen in the magisterium), the Church Fathers, and the saints show us how He uses suffering to draw us back to Himself.

Theology of suffering

The purpose of Dr Paul's theology of suffering is to make Catholic moral teaching more available to all Christians by linking St John Paul II's writing on suffering to the catechism.

Salvifici doloris - Encyclical on suffering

Dr Paul wants to provide hope and solace to those who suffer, and to assure them that God loves them and is calling them to participate in his nature both in this world and the next.

The How to's of growth in accepting suffering:

Patience

Fortitude

Divine Intimacy (sections 128-29)

Practice by carrying the daily cross with acceptance
and love of Jesus, while not suppressing our feelings
and pain

All People Suffer

We all suffer b/c the universe in which we live is not perfect. This is deliberate on God's part.

Remember who God is when you suffer

Don't forget the story of the Prodigal Son and how the loving Father always welcomes us to Himself. Despite our sins God is always welcoming us home, suffering is not necessarily punishment, but a way home.

Try to see things from the Divine Perspective when you suffer and to orient your will to His Will.

Witness of suffering

Page 195

“When the devout bear their illnesses well, it adds to the credibility as witnesses for the goodness of God and can help in the conversion of others. If their suffering is willingly accepted because they recognize it is for the benefit of others, it will be redemptive. “

Finding Joy with Chronic Illness

Page 218

“Chronic Illnesses are catalysts for conversion. They are not punishments for sins against God or man meant to destroy us. Recognize the chronic illness for what it is - God calling out to us in the only way we are sure to take notice.”

The sufferer as messenger of God

When you suffer (and we all do) can you suffer well, accept help, and offer the suffering to God?

We are all called to share the message of hope in this book we those in our sphere of influence.

Joy in finding meaning in suffering

“Suffering gives us hope both for the Beatific Vision and the motivation to attain it.”

2 Reasons there is joy in finding meaning in suffering:

1. God wants us to share in His life every bit as much as the father desired to share his life in the Prodigal Son parable. Suffering is God leading us home like a divine beacon.
2. Suffering has purpose when it is united to that of Christ, and it can lead to eternal life for the sufferer and the person who aids him.