

## STUDY & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- ❖ If you could have coffee with God this week, what's a question you'd like to have him answer? Review the distinctions Steve gave related to our hurts – which do you prefer to deal with?
- ❖ Review the list of commonly held assumptions that Pastor Steve covered. Are you surprised to hear some of these challenged? How have you heard some of these ideas expressed in the attitudes or words of others? Was there a new thought you had as a result of challenging these assumptions?
- ❖ Note Isaiah 53:3, which is a prophetic word about Jesus, God's perfect "suffering servant." What sorrows and grief was Jesus acquainted with? How does this bring you assurance and encouragement in your pain?
- ❖ Look again at Psalm 138:3. Can you recall a time when God took you "through" a painful experience, rather than "around" it? How does God give us strength in difficulty? What does Jesus' own example teach us about this?
- ❖ Look again at the verses in point 3 of the notes. How do these verses relate to Romans 8:28-29? What's surprising to you in these verses?
- ❖ Suppose a group of armed terrorists suddenly stormed into the place you're meeting and took you hostage in a captivity that was likely to last for some time. Just before they confiscated your Bibles and sermon notes, but they allowed you to take one last look at the verses on these notes. Which of these verses would you most try to fix in mind before they were snatched from you? Why?

**Bible Versions used:** **KJV**-King James; **NKJV**-New King James; **NIV**-New International; **NCV**-New Century; **TLB**-Living Bible; **NLT**-New Living Translation; **Msg**-The Message; **GW**-God's Word; **TEV**-Today's English; **CEV**-Contemporary English; **NAS** - New American Standard; **NJB**-New Jerusalem Bible; **HCSB**-Holman Christian Standard; **Phi**-Phillips Translation; **Amp**-Amplified Bible; **NRSV**-New Revised Standard

NorthPointe Community Church 5470 W. Spruce, # 105, Fresno, CA 93722  
email: [stevewilliams@northpointe.org](mailto:stevewilliams@northpointe.org)

# Tears

WHERE IS GOD WHEN IT HURTS?



Mar. 6 & 7, 2010

## “A World of Hurt”

*Psalms 90:10 (TEV)* “Seventy years is all we have -- eighty years, if we are strong; yet all they bring us is trouble and sorrow; life is soon over, and we are gone.”

### Some important distinctions

➡ P \_\_\_\_\_

➡ E \_\_\_\_\_

### Faulty assumptions to challenge

➡ Pain is \_\_\_\_\_ to be \_\_\_\_\_.

➡ God is \_\_\_\_\_.

➡ Life is \_\_\_\_\_.

➡ There's a \_\_\_\_\_.

➡ This \_\_\_\_\_ of all \_\_\_\_\_.

*2 Peter 3:13 (TEV)* But we wait for what God has promised: new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness will be at home.

➡ Faith \_\_\_\_\_ suffering.

*Psalms 56:8 (NLT)* “You keep track of all my sorrows. You have collected all my tears in your bottle. You have recorded each one in your book.”

**Psalms 138:3 (NLT)** “When I pray, you answer me; you encourage me by giving me the strength I need.”

## Why does God allow us to hurt?

1. It gets \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

**Proverbs 19:3 (NIV)** A man's own folly ruins his life, yet his heart rages against the LORD.

**Proverbs 20:30 (TEV)** Sometimes it takes a painful experience to make us change our ways.

2. It turns \_\_\_\_\_.

**2 Corinthians 7:9 (TLB)** “I am glad I sent it, not because it hurt you but because the pain turned you to God. It was a good kind of sorrow you felt, the kind of sorrow God wants his people to have.”

**Jonah 2:7 (NLT)** “When I had lost all hope, I turned my thoughts once more to the LORD. And my earnest prayer went out to you in your holy Temple.”

3. It makes \_\_\_\_\_.

**Romans 5:3 (Phi)** We can be full of joy here and now even in our trials and troubles. Taken in the right spirit these very things will give us patient endurance; this in turn will develop a mature character, and a character of this sort produces a steady hope, a hope that will never disappoint us.

**Hebrews 5:7-9; 2:10 (TEV)** In his life on earth Jesus made his prayers and requests with loud cries and tears to God...Because he was humble and devoted, God heard him. But even though he was God's Son, he learned through his sufferings to be obedient. When he was made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all those who obey him...It was only right that God, who creates and preserves all things, should make Jesus perfect through suffering, in order to bring many children to share his glory.

4. It's \_\_\_\_\_!