



Suffering: The Birth of Vision

John 16:1-4a (NIV)

"All this I have told you so that you will not fall away. ² They will put you out of the synagogue; in fact, the time is coming when anyone who kills you will think they are offering a service to God. ³ They will do such things because they have not known the Father or me. ⁴ I have told you this, so that when their time comes you will remember that I warned you about them.

John 16:20-22 (NIV)

Very truly I tell you, you will weep and mourn while the world rejoices. You will grieve, but your grief will turn to joy. ²¹ A woman giving birth to a child has pain because her time has come; but when her baby is born she forgets the anguish because of her joy that a child is born into the world. ²² So with you: Now is your time of grief, but I will see you again and you will rejoice, and no one will take away your joy.

Vision: Seeing as God Sees

1. Vision isn't surprised by suffering.

John 16:33 (NIV)

"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

2. Vision sees suffering as a season. (John 16:22)

3. Vision sees the source of suffering. (John 16:1-3; Genesis 1:31)

- Evil and suffering were never a part of God's original design.
- Sin brought suffering and separation. (Genesis 3:16)
- Vision keeps you from being "swept" by suffering.
- Without vision Satan wins in the past and present.
- Don't let Satan win twice in your life.
- If you believe Satan's lie that God is the source of suffering, he can't be your solution out of it.

4. Vision sees the purpose of suffering. (John 16:21)

- Vision looks past labor to the delivery.
- God uses suffering and pain to purify your faith.
- Suffering will never make sense if you value your life, your health, and your wealth over Christ!
- Vision doesn't play the blame game in the midst of suffering.
- Suffering can provide a great season of spiritual sensitivity.
- Coronavirus has uncovered buried problems.

1 Peter 1:6-7 (NIV)

In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. ⁷ These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

- God does His greatest work in suffering.