

Life's Healing Choices

Recycling Pain – The Sharing Choice

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Those that we influence are helped more through our **weaknesses** than by our **strengths**.

Sharing our strengths promotes our **abilities**; sharing our weaknesses promotes our **reliance** on God.

Matthew 5:10 *God blesses those who are persecuted for doing right, for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs.*

8th Healing Choice – I yield myself to God to be used to bring the Good News to others, both by my example and by my words.

Why God Allows Pain in our Lives

1. God has given us a **free will**.

Genesis 2:16-17 (NIV)

16 And the LORD God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden;

17 but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die."

We are free to choose **right** or **wrong**, but we are not free from the **consequences** of our choices.

Genesis 3:16-19

16 To the woman he said, "I will greatly increase your pains in childbearing; with pain you will give birth to children. Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you." 17 To Adam he said, "Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree about which I commanded you, 'You must not eat of it,' "Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat of it all the days of your life. 18 It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. 19 By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return."

2. God uses pain to get our **attention**.

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

It's not until we get to the end of **ourselves** that we get to the **beginning** of God.

Romans 8:28 ²⁸ *And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.*

3. God uses pain to teach us to **depend on Him**.

We don't know God is all we **need** until God is all we **have**.

2 Corinthians 1:8-9 *We had great burdens there that were beyond our own strength. We even gave up hope of living. ⁹ Truly, in our own hearts we believed we would die. But this happened so we would not trust in ourselves but in God, who raises people from the dead.*

4. God uses pain to allow us to **minister to others**.

2 Corinthians 1:4 *He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others. When they are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us.*

Three Suggestions for Sharing Our Story

1. Be **willing and prepared** to share what we've learned.

1 Peter 3:15

¹⁵ *But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect,*

2. Be **involved in a ministry where we'll have an opportunity to share what we've learned with others**.

3. Where there is a need, initiate sharing.

Acts 20:24 *But my life is worth nothing to me unless I use it for finishing the work assigned me by the Lord Jesus—the work of telling others the Good News about the wonderful grace of God.*

Telling others about God's wonderful grace can be broken down into four simple statements . . .

1. **How my life was before I became a believer.**
2. **How I realized that the missing link in my life was Christ.**
3. **How I invited Christ into my life as Lord.**
4. **How my life has taken new direction.**

Turning Point . . .

The Sharing Choice is possible when we realize...

...God desires to use **us** and our **experiences** to help others.

...God desires to recycle the pain in our lives for the **benefit** of others.

...the best **evidence** of genuine growth in our lives is when we use our experiences to help others.

Our Challenge...

Seekers –

Making the choice to allow God to transform your life may be difficult; however taking the first step is simple. All it takes is simply inviting Christ into your heart through a prayer like this:

*“Heavenly Father I **admit** that I have left you out of my life, but this morning, I **believe** that Christ is your Son and that He died for my sin of rejecting you and that you raised Him from the dead. I **confess** Him to be my Lord and Savior.
In Jesus' Name, Amen*

Believers –

simply ask God,

“Heavenly Father, show me where I have stalled in finishing the work you have assigned me to do and how I can start allowing you to move me forward in your purpose for my life. In Jesus' Name, Amen

