

God Uses Hard Experiences to Lead Us in New Directions

Introduction: In the midst of hard experiences we depend upon God's promise to use even bad things to bring about good for those who love Him and are called according to His purpose (Romans 8:28). One of the ways God does this is to use hard experiences to lead us in new directions.

1. Our Problem – Life often doesn't go as we hope it will.

- a. The fallen state of man and nature guarantees that we will encounter troubles. Genesis 3
- b. Broken dreams and frustrated plans can be extremely painful. Psalm 77
- c. The upside of hard experiences: They get our attention, shape our character and make us realize that our strength lies in our dependence on God.

2. Our Response – In the midst of hard experiences we can move away from God or draw closer to Him.

- a. Pain brought about by broken dreams and frustrated plans can make us question God's goodness and withdraw from Him.
- b. This pain can also draw us to God as we seek him with new intensity and rely upon His sufficiency.
- c. As we trust in God we become open to his plans to bring about good and transform us through the hard experience we're in. Gen 50:20

3. What This Looks Like – We learn from the experiences of Biblical leaders and from other Christ followers.

- a. In the Bible: Moses, Paul and Jesus's Disciples
- b. At GCC: The Kanyikis and the Ferias

