

Suffering Is Never for Nothing

by Elisabeth Elliot

Chapter 3: Acceptance

Discussion Questions

1. What do you think about this quote? “I need pain sometimes because God has something bigger in mind. It is never for nothing” (p. 54). Do you agree that pain is sometimes necessary? Why or why not?
 2. Elisabeth gave delivering and raising a baby as an example of love being “bound with sacrifice” (pp. 41–42). Give your own example. What beautiful gifts in your life have come through sacrifice?
 3. After listing some truths that are in her church’s creed, Elisabeth said this: “Every time things have seemingly fallen apart in my life, I have gone back to those things that do not change” (p. 43). Share anything that you recite or remember when things are hard.
 4. What makes it difficult to accept suffering as part of “God’s cup of salvation” (p. 54)? What reasons, either from this chapter or from the Scriptures, do we have to trust God in “offering” us the cup?
 5. Paul, Joseph, and Jesus are listed as examples of people whose suffering was not taken away after they prayed, because “far greater things are at stake” (p. 52–53). When has God answered your prayers differently than you had hoped? Share any hints you’ve seen of God’s purposes behind His answer.
 6. Consider the quote: “Do the next thing” (p. 45). What next thing is God calling you to do right now? Take time to pray for each group member, their situation, and their “next thing.”
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