



## Twisted 3 :: *Facing Forward* :: Andy Stanley

### INTRODUCTION

When we experience pain, we often ask, "Why?" In times of pain, we find ourselves desperately seeking for purpose. *Tell me there is meaning in this. Tell me this happened for a reason.* All too often when we look around at our present circumstances and look back to examine the past, we can't see how anything good can come out of the pain. This is because the purpose behind our pain is found by looking elsewhere.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. There are some times when we bring pain upon ourselves because of our choices in life, and other times when we experience pain for no apparent reason. When have you experienced pain that seemed to have no purpose?
2. We experience pain because our world is not as it should be. In the beginning, God created a paradise (Genesis 1); however, when we rebelled, sin, death, and decay entered the world (Genesis 3). Read Romans 8:18-22. How does this impact your understanding of the pain you have experienced?
3. Read Romans 8:23-27. In the present, we groan under the weight of sin's impact. How does the Spirit help us during this time? How does God provide help for us during our suffering?
4. How has the pain in your life impacted your relationship with God? Has it made you more dependent on him for his help? Has it pushed you away and made you more independent?
5. Read Romans 8:28-32. One day God will make everything right again. We will be transformed, and the world will be transformed along with us. How does this put our present sufferings into perspective (v. 18)? How does this give us hope?
6. Read Romans 8:32-39. What do we learn about our God in light of our present pain?

### THINK ABOUT IT

How has your understanding of pain been influenced by Romans 8:18-39?

### WHAT WILL YOU DO?

How does this impact your present pain?

### CHANGING YOUR MIND

*I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.* Romans 8:18