

CHAPTER ONE: CHOSEN TO SUFFER

1. Do you believe that if you are good you can avoid suffering?
How does our culture reinforce this message, and how does the story of Job challenge that kind of thinking?
2. How difficult is it for you to look beyond and through your suffering to see what God is trying to accomplish in your life?
3. How does saying, “You’ll get over it,” to someone who is suffering do damage rather than encourage?

CHAPTER TWO: THE UNANSWERABLE “WHY”

1. Talk about the times in your life when you have found yourself asking God, “Why?”
2. Why is lament so important; where are the safe places for you to lament? If you’ve not found that place, consider writing out your lament to God.
3. Helen Roseveare came to see her deep suffering as a privilege. In what way can your present suffering be seen as a privilege?

CHAPTER THREE: TESTED BY SUFFERING

1. Dr. Perkins says that while God is testing us, Satan is wooing us in one of three ways: the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, or the pride of life. How is the enemy wooing you?

2. As you suffer do you find yourself being tested most in the area of patience or gentleness? Talk about how this displays itself in your life.
3. How have your family and friends been tested by your suffering?

CHAPTER FOUR: I SEE HIM

1. How has your suffering caused you to question or be assured of the goodness of God?
2. Discuss how you have been strengthened by each of these attributes of God amid suffering: sovereignty, omnipotence, omnipresence.
3. Dr. Perkins suggests that suffering not only helps us see God rightly, but it also helps us see ourselves. How has the Lord used your suffering to reveal your true heart?

CHAPTER FIVE: THE CASE FOR SUFFERING

1. How have you taken on suffering for the advance of the gospel in your own life?
2. Most of Dr. Perkins's life has been spent suffering for the cause of justice. What commitments have you made personally?
3. God uses our own brokenness to prepare us to serve those who suffer in similar ways. How has He uniquely prepared you as a sufferer?

CHAPTER SIX: IN HIS STEPS

1. How might your life change if you made a commitment to ask “what would Jesus do” before every decision?
2. In the Sermon on the Mount Jesus taught us what it looks like to serve Him, and often to suffer for Him, in a dark world. Which of the sayings is the most difficult for you? Why?
3. A hallmark of the life of a believer, and certainly of Dr. Perkins’s life, is the choice to forgive those who hurt us. How have you been challenged to display this characteristic as a sufferer?

CHAPTER SEVEN: DEAL WITH FEAR

1. We have a choice as believers, to suffer or to take the easy road. What choice have you made? Explain the factors that influenced this choice.
2. How has fear crippled you in responding to the needs of others? How have you chosen to address fear in your own heart?
3. The COVID pandemic provided a treasure trove of opportunities for us to give sacrificially and put the needs of others ahead of our own. How did the Lord prompt you to enter into the suffering of others during this time?

CHAPTER EIGHT: HE CAN REDEEM IT ALL!

1. How has the Lord used suffering in your life to drive the roots of your faith deeper in Him?

2. We are encouraged and strengthened by the testimonies of Bible heroes and other faithful believers. Their example spurs us on. How has God used your endurance to impact the lives of those around you?
3. Dr. Perkins's calling to the ministry of social justice came through the death of his son. God uses suffering to birth new ministries and new callings in our lives. How might He be calling you to new ministry through your suffering?

CHAPTER NINE: MY EYES ARE FIXED

1. The Gate Control Theory argues that if we fix our eyes/minds on something desirable it can minimize the effect of pain. What do you fix your mind on when suffering is the most difficult?
2. It's human to get tired. Dr. Perkins has spoken often of the weariness of life. How do you fight against the urge to just quit?
3. Whether we suffer because we have been chosen to suffer, or whether we willingly choose to suffer with others—joy awaits us. Talk about that joy. How can you keep this truth in the forefront of your mind along your journey?

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CHAPTER EIGHT: HE CAN REDEEM IT ALL!

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