



# Walking with God through Pain and Suffering Week 6; Chs 11-12

How do you handle suffering/pain?

What most influences your thinking about suffering/pain?

# Week 6

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## Victoria Osteen

I just want to encourage every one of us to realize when we obey God, we're not doing it for God—I mean, that's one way to look at it—we're doing it for ourselves, because God takes pleasure when we're happy. That's the thing that gives Him the greatest joy. So, I want you to know this morning: Just do good for your own self. Do good because God wants you to be happy. When you come to church, when you worship Him, you're not doing it for God really. You're doing it for yourself, because that's what makes God happy. Amen?

# Week 6

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## *Creflo Dollar*

“Biblical prosperity is the ability to be in control of every circumstance and situation that occurs in your life. No matter what happens, whether financial, social, physical, marital, spiritual, or emotional, this type of prosperity enables you to maintain control in every situation.”

# Week 6

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Mike Murdock

“Poverty is so unnecessary. Loss is so painful... I hate pain. Your pain can stop....”



# Week 6

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## Andrew Womack; God Wants You Well

“(Very revealing is)...Wommack’s story of a young couple with a brain-damaged four-year old son who died despite fervent prayers for healing (pp. 44–47). Wommack told the grieving parents, ‘I don’t believe this was God’s will.... He didn’t allow this to happen.... It’s either my fault, your fault, both of our faults, or things that we don’t understand.’ The grieving couple prayed, ‘and God showed them some areas where they had allowed fear, doubt, and unbelief in. This had hindered their faith and kept them from receiving the miracle they needed. Because they received the truth, they repented and were able to overcome that fear.’ Note what Wommack says here: the parents’ sin of unbelief resulted in the death of their child. They were responsible and needed to ‘repent.’”

*-book review by Stephen Witmer*

# Week 6

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## Prosperity Gospel

“Put simply, the prosperity gospel is the belief that God grants health and wealth to those with the right kind of faith.... The prosperity gospel popularized a Christian explanation for why some people make it and some do not. They revolutionized prayer as an instrument for getting God always to say “yes.” It offers people a guarantee: Follow these rules, and God will reward you, heal you, restore you....

“The prosperity gospel holds to this illusion of control until the very end. If a believer gets sick and dies, shame compounds the grief. Those who are loved and lost are just that — those who have lost the test of faith. In my work, I have heard countless stories of refusing to acknowledge that the end had finally come...

# Week 6

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“An emaciated man was pushed about a megachurch in a wheelchair as churchgoers declared that he was already healed. A woman danced around her sister’s deathbed shouting to horrified family members that the body can yet live. There is no graceful death, no *ars moriendi*, in the prosperity gospel. There are only jarring disappointments after fevered attempts to deny its inevitability.”



# Week 6

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“The prosperity gospel has taken a religion based on the contemplation of a dying man and stripped it of its call to surrender all. Perhaps worse, it has replaced Christian faith with the most painful forms of certainty. The movement has perfected a rarefied form of America’s addiction to self-rule, which denies much of our humanity: our fragile bodies, our finitude, our need to stare down our deaths (at least once in a while) and be filled with dread and wonder. At some point, we must say to ourselves, *I’m going to need to let go.*”

Kate Bowler, Author of “Blessed”, et al; Christianity professor @ Duke Divinity School

## Orthodox Theology

How you think determines how you think, feel and behave!

A Christian worldview is first and foremost dependent on a proper reading and understanding of Scripture.

Biblical AND Systematic Theology

Exegesis vs Eisegesis- CONTEXT

# Week 6

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James 4:2- You have not because you ask not...

Galatians 6:7- Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap.

Galatians 3:13a, 14a- Christ redeemed us...so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles.

Isaiah 53:5- But he was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities, upon Him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and by His wounds we are healed.

1 Peter 2:24-25- He Himself bore our sins in His body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By His wounds you have been healed. For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

# Week 6

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Study Guide #s 1, 2, 3, 4

# Week 6

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#s 8-9

What are the four things we learn about God in the darkness of our suffering from Psalm 88? (p. 247)

What connection is there between Jesus and Psalm 88?



# Week 6

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Ken & Joni Eareckson  
Tada

[https://  
www.youtube.com/  
watch?  
v=VVXJ8GyLgt0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VVXJ8GyLgt0)

# Week 6

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Q and A??

**Homework week 7/March 23**

Chapters 13-14; Study Guide