

## Eternal Aspects

*“Watch out that you do not lose what you have worked for, but that you may be rewarded fully” (1 John 1:8).*

For almost seven weeks, I have been spending most of my waking hours with people in various levels of pain. I wish I could say pain in life is unavoidable, but the truth is, pain is very much a part of life. The good news is, pain doesn't change who God is, or what God has for you.

The Bible is filled with stories about individuals dealing with suffering or enduring pain in life. No matter who you are, no matter where you are in life- pain is a part of it. There was not one individual who's pain was in vain, so why would your pain be in vain?

The truth is, any suffering you endure isn't in vain, if you trust Him through it. Everything you go through has eternal aspects or rewards attached to it. Galatians 3:4, “Have you suffered so many things in vain—if indeed it was in vain?” This is saying, nothing is in vain. In other words, did you undergo such a number of things to no purpose, if it is in fact to no purpose?

My friends! It has purpose! Everything in your life does. God has a plan for your life and though difficulties can be a part of it, every difficulty you face matters to Him. Pain is very much a part of life, but misery is optional.

Optional means you have a choice in how you walk it out. You can allow painful circumstances to overwhelm you and be miserable, or you can not allow it to make you miserable. If you allow misery to prevail, you will most likely move farther away from Him into the unwanted consequences of doubt and unbelief.

Yet, when you press through, you will draw closer to God through each situation. Even though inwardly, emotionally or physically you are engaged in difficult things, it is God who knows just how to care for you as HE shapes you into something that will reflect His glory. God will perfect, or complete what He started in you and after all, isn't life really all about HIM and your relationship with HIM.

Rev. Dr. Gina Cobb-  
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