

Suffering

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A summary from: "Why O Lord? – The inner Meaning of Suffering"

by Carlo Carretto

Sometimes, we may ask why we have suffering or why God allows and does not prevent it. It is a mystery, and we may not escape it. Under the suffering, we may fail to grasp the meaning of life, and curse life as a hopeless misfortune. However, in the depths of the darkness, we can find that there is a tiny glimmer of hope. Suffering can help us to know God; we see the insight of the matter that happened to us. For example, when we are thirsty, we know the value of water; when we are hungry, we know the goodness of food. By living experience and suffering, God leads us to search in Him and know Him. God allows us to suffer because He wants us to bear good fruit from the suffering. God is able to transform a misfortune into a grace. St. Augustine said: God permits evil, so as to transform it into a greater good. If we know God, we know that God is faithful and He cannot deceive us. This is the strength that leads us to trust in Him. In the suffering, our faith is put to the test. However, we have a dream of hope; the hope gives us life and courage and delivers us from the doubt. We have courage and continue to walk until the dream comes true. Therefore, a good fruit that comes out from the faith is love and trust. We can let go in the dark and fall into the arms of God our Father with total abandon, and offering all for love.

Life is an exodus – is a journey towards liberation, and the dream is the kingdom of God. The kingdom of God is the answer of all our questions and our final expectation. In the light of the kingdom of God, we can understand the meaning of suffering and life. The kingdom of God is among us, and it is really our act of love. The kingdom of God comes to us when we love each other as Jesus loves us. The action of God cannot be fulfilled unless we respond to Him and His love. Our destiny is eternity, and eternity is love. Along the journey, our faith and hope will be purified. At the end, our love will also be purified and transformed into charity. The

miracle worker is love itself. God is the God of impossible.

There is a secret in God. God is beautiful & almighty? We know that; it is not a secret. What is the secret? God allows

Himself to fail; He allows himself to be crucified on the cross. Jesus came in the poor and came to wash our feet. Life would be born from death and Jesus the Messiah would have the victory on the cross. The action of God is more than logic and more than our wisdom. God is the God of impossible. God is love. Because of love, he allows himself to die for us on the cross. In the suffering, God touches and reaches us in our flesh. He wants to purify our selfishness, pride, and idolatries. Suffering is a true way to happiness, peace, and joy. By suffering, we become small and humble. We cry for the help of God, and rely on God's power and not our own. After we pass through the shadows, there is eternity of life. Therefore, we can get out of ourselves so as to understand the others, so that we are able to love. God transforms evil into good, transforms our cry into prayer, and our grief into an act of love. There is a link between suffering and love, just as the death and resurrection are linked together by the power of the Holy Spirit. St. Francis says: "O Lord, grant me two kinds of graces:

1. Let me feel and share your pain and suffering in your passion.
2. Let me feel your extraordinary love at the time you were crucified on the cross."

When we attend the Mass, we receive the Communion. It is a sacrament of love. Through the sacrament, we receive Jesus – the source of love, so that we have strength and are able to love God and our neighbours. We believe that we win by losing our very selves and that love is everything.

