

Galatians 6:1-2 (LB) Dear brothers, if a Christian is overcome by some sin, you who are godly should gently and humbly help him back onto the right path, remembering that next time it might be one of you who is in the wrong. Share each other's troubles and problems, and so obey our Lord's command.

Three suggestions for sharing your story:

- BE _____.
- BE _____.
- BE _____.

1 Thessalonians 2:3-8 (MES) God tested us thoroughly to make sure we were qualified to be trusted with this Message. Be assured that when we speak to you we're not after crowd approval—only God approval. Since we've been put through that battery of tests, you're guaranteed that both we and the Message are free of error, mixed motives, or hidden agendas. We never used words to butter you up. No one knows that better than you. And God knows we never used words as a smoke screen to take advantage of you. Even though we had some standing as Christ's apostles, we never threw our weight around or tried to come across as important, with you or anyone else. We weren't aloof with you. We took you just as you were. We were never patronizing, never condescending, but we cared for you the way a mother cares for her children. We loved you dearly. Not content to just pass on the Message, we wanted to give you our hearts. And we did.

When you are willing to honestly share your story ...

- It gives _____ to them
- It gives _____ to you

Acts 20:24 (NLT) But my life is worth nothing unless I use it for doing the work assigned me by the Lord Jesus—the work of telling others the Good News about God's wonderful kindness and love.

There are only two things you cannot do in heaven ...

- You cannot _____
- You cannot _____



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R	Happy are those who know they are spiritually poor. (Matthew 5:3, GN)
	Principle #1: Realize I'm not God. I admit that I am powerless to control my tendency to do the wrong thing and my life is unmanageable.
E	Happy are those who mourn. (Matthew 5:4, GN)
	Principle #2: Earnestly believe that God exists, that I matter to Him, and that He has the power to help me recover.
C	Happy are those who are humble. (Matthew 5:5, GN)
	Principle #3: Consciously choose to commit all my life and will to Christ's care and control.
O	Happy are the pure in heart. (Matthew 5:8, GN)
	Principle #4: Openly examine and confess my faults to myself, to God, and to someone I trust.
V	Happy are those whose greatest desire is to do what God requires. (Matthew 5:6, GN)
	Principle #5: Voluntarily submit to every change God wants to make in my life and humbly ask Him to remove my character defects.
E	Happy are those who are merciful to others. (Matthew 5:7, GN)
	Principle #6: Evaluate all my relationships. Offer forgiveness to those who have hurt me and make amends for harm I've done to others, except when to do so would harm them or others.
R	Happy are those who work for peace. (Matthew 5:9, GN)
	Principle #7: Reserve a daily time with God for self-examination, Bible reading and prayer in order to know God and His will for my life and to gain the power to follow His will.
Y	Happy are those who are persecuted because they do what God requires. (Matthew 5:10, GN)
	Principle #8: Yield myself to God to be used to bring this Good News to others, both by my example and my words.

Matthew 5:3-10 (TEV)

- Happy are those who know they are spiritually poor; the Kingdom of heaven belongs to them!
- Happy are those who mourn; God will comfort them!
- Happy are those who are humble; they will receive what God has promised!
- Happy are those whose greatest desire is to do what God requires; God will satisfy them fully!
- Happy are those who are merciful to others; God will be merciful to them!
- Happy are the pure in heart; they will see God!
- Happy are those who work for peace; God will call them his children!
- Happy are those who are persecuted because they do what God requires; the Kingdom of heaven belongs to them!

We pray that God would use our _____, but
God declares that He wants to use our _____.

The proof of recovery is when you begin to focus your
attention _____.

WHY HAS GOD ALLOWED MY PAIN?

1. TO PERMIT ME TO HAVE A _____.

Deuteronomy 11:26-28 (LB) *I am giving you the choice today between God's blessing or God's curse! There will be blessing if you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I am giving you today, and a curse if you refuse them and worship the gods of these other nations.*

2. TO GET _____.

Proverbs 20:30 (TEV) *Sometimes it takes a painful experience to make us change our ways.*

2 Corinthians 7:9 (LB) *Now I am glad I sent it, not because it hurt you but because the pain turned you to God. It was a good kind of sorrow you felt, the kind of sorrow God wants his people to have, so that I need not come to you with harshness.*

Jonah 2:7 (LB) *When I had lost all hope, I turned my thoughts once more to the Lord. And my earnest prayer went to you in your holy Temple.*

3. TO TEACH ME TO _____.

2 Corinthians 1:8-10 (LB) *I think you ought to know, dear brothers, about the hard time we went through in Asia. We were really crushed and overwhelmed, and feared we would never live through it. We felt we were doomed to die and saw how powerless we were to help ourselves; but that was good, for then we put everything into the hands of God, who alone could save us, for he can even raise the dead. And he did help us and saved us from a terrible death; yes, and we expect him to do it again and again.*

You don't know that God is all you need until God is
_____.

Psalms 119:71-72 (LB) *The punishment you gave me was the best thing that could have happened to me, for it taught me to pay attention to your laws. They are more valuable to me than millions in silver and gold!*

4. TO GIVE ME A _____.

2 Corinthians 1:4 (NLT) *He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others. When others are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us.*

Genesis 50:20 (NIV) *You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.*

God never wastes a hurt. But you can waste it ...

- if you don't _____
- if you don't _____

HOW DO I USE MY PAIN TO HELP OTHERS?

1 Peter 3:15 (NIV) *But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect,*

You need to always be prepared to give an answer to this
question: “ _____?”