



## Power of Pain

**TEXT:** *Isaiah 53:5* *But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed."*

**Song says:**

*Moment by moment I'm kept in His love;  
Moment by moment I've life from above;  
Looking to Jesus till glory doth shine;  
Moment by moment, O Lord, I am Thine.  
  
Never a trial that He is not there,  
Never a burden that He doth not bear,  
Never a sorrow that He doth not share,  
Moment by moment, I'm under His care.  
  
Never a headache, and never a groan,  
Never a teardrop and never a moan;  
Never a danger but there on the throne,  
Moment by moment He thinks of His own.  
  
Never a weakness that He doth not feel,  
Never a sickness that He cannot heal;  
Moment by moment, in woe or in weal,  
Jesus my Savior, abides with me still.*

**Pain means-** A feeling of being hurt, suffering to have a bad effect on, do damage or harm to

### Introduction

**Have you ever had a pain?**

- Pain is universal. Nearly everyone at one point or another has experienced pain.
- An infant lying in a crib has pain.
- A student attending school has pain.

**Parents involved in the fast paced activities of the work place have pain.**

- Senior citizens have pain. Pain does not discriminate.
- The rich, the poor, whites, Blacks, males and females, all have had a pain or two in the course of their life's experience.

- It is almost impossible to journey through life without experiencing some element of pain and discomfort.

***But tonight I have to tell you that we All face times in our lives when we feel pain and hurt.***

- We wish it never would happen.
- We wish we might move from birth to the grave free from all discomfort.
- But I remind you= that =just doesn't happen.

Somebody said, "**If I just ignore it, it will go away.**" Or, "**If I take some pill it will end the pain.**" Some go so far as to assume the pain is a burden resulting from improper thoughts or actions.

***The list of physical pains is unending.***

- Everyone has their own list. ---- **What's your pain?**
- While one person has headaches another has backaches.
- Someone has aching muscles and stiffness while someone else has tender joints.
- Some have writer's cramp and others have carpal tunnel syndrome.
- Some have aching feet or sore eyes while someone else suffers from sprains, and bruises.
- The pain of dislocations bothers some, while fractures bothers others.
- Some pains are not physical at all.
- There are many that would rather have the pain of a broken leg than the agony of a broken heart.
- Sometimes, pains are caused by the people around us.

***Pains are either acute or chronic.***

- An acute pain happens suddenly and at some point ends.
- It's the pain we get from a broken leg, or an injury.
- As the injury heals the pain goes away.
- Chronic pains never seem to go away.
- They are often related to an ongoing condition or tucked away in the secret corridors of our psyche.

***Sometimes we can stumble upon pain.***

- A burglar was cruising through one of our posh suburbs looking for a target of opportunity. At one house he saw a truck unloading a big screen television, stereo, and video outfit. All the gear had to cost thousands of dollars. He made a mental note and went on his way. The next day he was back in the same neighborhood. When he drove past the house with all the goodies, he saw an elderly couple loading suitcases into the trunk of their car. He could hardly wait. That night, without a moon in the sky and a heavy fog, he drove up to the house. He rang the doorbell and when no one answered, broke the lock on the kitchen door and went in. It was pitch black inside as he made his way through the kitchen, then the dining room and into the den where he expected to find the things he wanted to steal."I see you and Jesus sees you," a voice said. The burglar froze in his tracks. "I see you and Jesus sees you," the voice said again. When nothing more happened, the burglar took out his flashlight and shined it in the direction of the voice. All he saw was a parrot on its perch.

***"I see you and Jesus sees you."***

- The burglar laughed. "Just a dumb bird," he said. The burglar closed the drapes before turning on a lamp and that's when he saw a big and mean looking Doberman Pinscher sitting beneath the parrot's perch. "Sic him, Jesus!" The parrot said. Then the burglar understood the meaning of **acute pain!**

**Generally, pain is a signal that something is wrong and needs attention.**

- When a finger is cut it would go unnoticed without the pain.
- If a limb is injured, it would also be ignored if not for the pain.
- Pain has a biological purpose, which is to alert us that something is wrong and needs adjustment or attention.

**Just as there are physical, social and economic signals or pains that alert us to an imbalance, there are also spiritual pains as well.**

- A guilty conscience, a broken spirit, a loss of direction, and a waning spirituality are all signals that something is out of adjustment spiritually.

**When we feel physical pain we turn to pain relievers.**

- Over the counter drugs like aspirin or other stronger medicines stop the sensation of pain while the condition it prompts the pain often lingers.

When there is a spiritual pain many plunge into cults and new age "**promise-me the-world religions**" that serve as a pain reliever.

**There is only one spiritual pain killer that treats the cause of the pain rather than the symptom, that is the blood of Christ.**

- The grace of God deals with the cause of spiritual pain does more than simply make us feel good for the moment but forgives our sin and heals our wounds.

**As believers, we are encouraged to know that the blood of Christ is a pain killer and not just a pain reliever.**

- We lean upon his Grace to heal our wounds and strengthen our souls through his love.

### **Exposition**

This text focuses on Isaiah's prophecy of the coming of the Messiah.

**The prophecy does not mention Christ by name but refers to events that point directly to him.**

- It often refers to the events in the past tense as if they had already happened.
- The prophecy makes it clear that someone is coming to champion God's cause.
- That someone is first presented in the 52nd chapter beginning at verse 13 and is referred to only as God's "servant" who would be lifted up and exalted.

**When Christians read these passages we see Jesus as the "servant."**

- However, throughout the centuries the Jewish community has insisted that the "servant" referred to in these passages is the nation of Israel itself, even to the point of being bruised and wounded.
- Like many before them the Jewish community expected the Messiah to rise as an earthly king and since Jesus did not accomplish that end have dismissed this text as referring to him because it does not appeal to their vision of the Messiah that would come with might and power to deliver the nation of Israel.
- They expected him to help them overthrow the Roman domination of their nation and to fulfill the promises of God to make it the chief of the nations of the earth.

**The passages, taken as a whole, make it clear that the "servant" referred to in these Scriptures is a person and not an entire nation .**

- That person, Christ himself, would come as a substitute for the sins of the people and would bear their penalty in his own body.

**The prophecy tracks what Christ did for believers.**

- He was "wounded" for our transgressions, "bruised" for our iniquity.
- This indicates that the Messiah would absorb the pain, punishment and suffering for the sins of the world.
- As a result of his act, the pain of sin would not be simply relieved but totally eliminated because the source of the pain will have been satisfied.

***When verse five refers to "stripes," reference is made to the physical pain that Jesus endured for his followers.***

- Deuteronomy 25:1-3 notes that the Mosaic law prohibited anyone accused of an offense from receiving more than 40 lashes with the whip.
- Thus temple scourgings were generally 39 lashes creating 39 "stripes" on the backs of offenders.
- Matthew 27: 26 notes that Christ was ordered scourged as a possible alternative to crucifixion.
- That scourging produced stripes or torn flesh, blood and pain: Though generally they mean the same, popular references note that through his "stripes" we are healed and through his death on the cross we are saved.

***The spiritual pain of the people was caused by sin.***

- The pain was eliminated through Christ's pain and suffering.
- His death and resurrection lifted his believers from the pain of sin to the power of salvation, through Jesus Christ.

*"I've been asked many times in my life why God allows tragedy and suffering. I have to confess that I really do not know the answer totally, even to my own satisfaction. I have to accept, by faith, that God is sovereign, and He is a God of love and mercy and compassion in the midst of suffering. For the Child of GOD, the Cross tells us that God understands our sin and suffering, for He took upon Himself in the person of Jesus Christ our sins and our suffering, God manifested in the flesh. And from the cross, God declares, I love you. I know the heartaches and the sorrows and the pains that you feel. But I love you. The story does not end with the Cross, for it points us beyond the tragedy of the Cross to the empty tomb. It tells us that there is hope for eternal life, for Christ conquered evil and death, and hell. Yes, there is hope."*

## **What Pain Does**

***While no one likes pain, it does have its purpose.***

- Pain alerts us that something is wrong.
- Like the aggravating seat belt chime in an automobile we can either buckle up or get use to the irritation.

***PAIN ALERTS US:*** The presence of pain alerts us that something is wrong.

- When David committed adultery with Bathsheba, he attributed the pain in his groin as a result of his promiscuity.
- Psalm 38 records his lamentations about the cause and effect of his physical pain.
- David's pain, in this instance, was directly related to his sin.
- Not only did he hurt physically, but he was unable to sleep well or be at peace.
- He tried to hide his deed.
- That was a pain reliever.
- But when he was confronted by the Prophet Nathan he had to come to grips with the cause of his pain. In the 51st Psalm he cried out "create in me a clean heart O God, and renew a right spirit within me."
- There are some pains we suffer that are directly related to our own behavior and actions.
- Pain calls attention to the relationship between our present condition and our past actions. Not every pain is related to a past sin.

- Job endured considerable pain and suffering, but not because of a sin.
- He was being tested by God.
- His painful situation served notice that he was being observed by the creator.
- In a similar manner it could very well be that some of our suffering may not be sin related but may serve notice on us that we are being observed.
- If a believer has a sin-based condition he or she should seek forgiveness-. James 5: 15 reminds believers that after prayer for forgiveness is offered by the elders of the church a sin based pain will be relieved shortly thereafter.
- If sin is not the basis of the pain then "testing" is and the believer should pray for strength to endure.
- That's what Paul found out when he asked three times for the thorn in his side to be removed but it was not.
- He was told, "My grace is sufficient." Pain alerts us to the need to rely on the grace of God.

#### **PAIN PROMPTS US TO TAKE ACTION:**

- There are many conditions that we will ignore until it begins to hurt.
- We'll let a leaky faucet drip until we feel the pain of the water bill.
- We'll ignore our special diet until we feel the pain of a heart attack or high blood pressure.
- The pain prompts us to take action that we would otherwise put off.

*There's many people who lead healthier life-styles today because the pain of a previous illness prompted them to take corrective action.*

- We do things in response to pain and often we can be very innovative.
- In 1897, a chemist working for the Bayer Company tried to find a way to ease the sensation of pain his relative was experiencing.
- In the process, he discovered Aspirin, a product which now sells 80 million units a day around the world.
- When our old car breaks down for the last time, we'll either walk or get a better car.
- When the roof leaks so bad that we run out of skillets, pots and pans to catch the water, we'll either bear it or repair it.
- We may have a tooth cavity for many months and keep promising to do something about it.
- But when the pain hits, we'll take action quick.
- Pain prompts us to take action.
- It was the blindness of the Damascus Road experience that prompted Saul to become Paul.
- Jonah stopped running from the Lord after he spent an extended weekend in the belly of the fish.
- Thus, one purpose of pain may be to prompt us to take action.

#### **PAIN PROMPTS SACRIFICES FOR OUR GREATER GOOD:**

When we experience painful situations we are prompted to make sacrifices we would not normally make to achieve the greater good.

- Pain and sacrifice are integral parts of the Christian experience.
- That's why Jesus encouraged every new believer to count the cost.
- The promise of eternal life would not come without the pain of the cross.

In **Matthew 16:24** Jesus said, "*Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.*"

- Before the crown there must be a cross.
- Before the sweet, easy life of heaven, every believer had to be prepared to go through a little hell on earth.
- With that in mind, believers have willingly responded to painful situations and made sacrifices of property and life to achieve the aims of the kingdom.
- One God Jesus Name believers have faced lions in the Coliseums of Rome and the torturous death of the cross.
- They have been boiled, crucified and persecuted through all times.
- While many have not faced this level of pain there are millions who have had their names trampled upon on the highway and have been called everything but a child of God for defending the purpose of the kingdom.
- Yet, the words of the song writer are clear, no cross, no crown.

### **The Power of Pain**

- Finally, brothers and sisters we must consider that there is power in pain.
- While no one likes suffering or painful experiences, it is true that believers have acquired considerable power while dealing with their pain.
- There are many who can testify today that it was while they were dealing with pain and suffering directly or the pain and suffering of a loved one that they developed a greater appreciation for what it means to walk by faith and not by sight.
- In our pain, we gain an increased power to keep our eye focused on the power of the Lord rather than our own ability.
- In our pain, we recognize our own weakness and lean heavily upon the strength of the Lord.
- In our pain, we recognize our own fallibility and lean heavily upon the immutability and eternity of God. While we may not be able to handle a situation we have God who can deal with the issue.
- In our pain, we recognize our own inability to control the complex maze of situations that impact our lives while at the same time gaining the power to take our burdens to Lord and leave them there.
- Pain brings suffering. Pain brings heartaches. Pain brings tears to your eyes.

Now wonder **Rev. 21:4** says *And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away."*

John saw the vision of the new heaven and the new earth. In this apocalyptic picture of things to come John shows us the other side of a life of pain.

### ***In this life we see:***

- The pain of corruption, but John saw the gain of heavenly purity.
- The pain of discord, but John saw the gain of divine harmony
- The pain of gloom, but John saw the gain of heavenly glory!
- The pain of earthly misery, but John saw the beauty of heavenly luxury!

### ***We see:***

- Failure but John saw success
- The midnight but John saw morning

- Defeat but John saw victory
- Death but John saw eternal life

**But brothers and sisters, if there is no pain, there is no gain.**

**No warfare means no triumph!**

**No struggle means no success!**

**No tribulation means no jubilation**

**No fears means no cheers**

**No devastation means no glorification**

- I don't mind the troubles of the this world, I just keep my eyes on heaven.
- When experiences the light of day vanishes, leaving us in some dark and desolate midnight - moments when our highest hopes are turned into shambles of despair . During such moments our spirits are almost overcome by gloom and despair, and we feel that there is no light anywhere. But ever and again, we look toward the east and discover that there is another light that shines even in the darkness, and "the spear of frustration" is transformed "into a shaft of light."

I heard a songwriter say, "*I can take the pain and the heartaches that they bring...I'm going up yonder! to be with my Lord!"*

No wonder the song writer would declare, ""If your body suffers pain and your health you can't regain and you have to get along with meager fare. Jesus knows the pain you feel, he can save and he can heal take your burdens to the Lord and leave it there."

- In our difficult and lonesome walk up heavens road, you're not walk alone. God is walk with us.
- In our pain, we have learned to trust in the Lord with all thine heart and lean not unto thine understanding.
- We may not know about tomorrow but we trust in the Lord who holds tomorrow in his hands!
- From our pain, we gain the power to say to the world, "I don't know everything about, but I serve a God who is in control of everything!"
- From our pain, we have gained the power to stand in the midst of sickness and say, "It is well with my soul!"
- From our pain, we have gain the power to see the world and its circumstances from a heavenly perspective. The humanity within us wants to respond to everything with a worldly response, but the power we gain from pain and suffering teaches us to see things from a heavenly perspective.
- From our pain, we have learned that we have a higher power who takes over when we have done all that we know how to do.
- From our pain we get a perspective that goes beyond the carnal, into the metaphysical and reaches into the spiritual.
- This power gives us hope when everyone else has thrown up their hands, because we know that God is able! .
- Strong winds may blow...but God is able!
- Storms may rise but God is able!

Ø God is able to give us interior resources to confront the trials and difficulties of life. Each of us faces circumstances

in life which compel us to carry heavy burdens or sorrow. Adversity assails us with hurricane force. Glowing sunrises are transformed into darkest night. Our highest hopes are blasted and our noblest dreams are shattered.

Ø God is able to make a way out of no way, and transform dark yesterdays into bright tomorrows. This is our hope= you can stand in faith =This is our mandate.

Ø God is able to beat back gigantic waves of opposition and to bring low pro-digious mountains of evil down for you to keep going.

***There's a God of power who is able to do exceedingly abundant things in our life.***

**This ringing testimony of you're faith is that God is able.**

**What power did you gain from your pain?**

- It will give us courage to face the uncertainties of the future.
- It will give our tired feet new strength as we continue our forward stride toward the city.
- When our days become dreary with low hovering clouds and our nights become even darker than a thousand midnights, let us remember that there's still Power in the name of our God, From the pain of falling down, God gave us the power of getting back up again! From the pain of weakness, God gave us the power to remember that they that wait on the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up on wings as eagles. They shall run and not get weary! They shall walk and not faint!

**From His pain we have gain the power to stand firm against whatever the world brings and hold to God,' s unchanging hand!**

- His pain has given us hope!
- His pain has given us a new determination to run on and see what they end will be!
- His pain was endured through 39 Roman lashes!
- His pain was felt as he carried his cross to Calvary !
- His pain was realized as he cried out in agony, "Father, why has thou forsaken me?"

**In pain and misery, he died on an old rugged Cross! His pain...became our gain!**

**Is someone here on the brink of despair? God is able to give you the power to endure that which you can't change. Only God is able**

**NO MATTER** where you are or what you are going through right now!

- We have a God that KNOWS
- We have a God that SEES
- We have a God that CARES
- He knows my name....
- He knows my every thought
- He sees each tear that falls AND
- He hears me when I call...