

God Answers Man's Suffering: Companionship

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: Isaiah 43, 2 Corinthians 1.

B. The sufferings of life will either isolate or involve a person.

C. God permits suffering so that we can experience the kind of companionship that comes only in the valley.

II. God is with us.

A. God is with us because we are owned by him.

B. We are precious to God.

C. God is with us in his person.

D. God is with us in his providences.

E. God is with us in his promises. (Isaiah 41:10)

F. God is with us in his power.

III. We experience companionship with other people when we suffer.

A. Be kind because everyone you meet is going through a struggle.

B. Everybody needs comfort.

C. God's comfort is given that we might comfort other people.

D. In order to experience closeness with God, Jesus had to go through the valley.

Application questions:

1. What does it mean to you when the Bible teaches that God is with us?

2. When have you learned about God's person, providences, promises and power through suffering?

3. How does the companionship of suffering give us perspective about the behavior of others? How can we respond differently to people in light of this?
