

## SUFFERING AND THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD

SESSION 3 – JUNE 17, 2018

JOHN PIPER VIDEO SERIES

### Steve Saint—Sovereignty, Suffering and the Work of Missions.

Our speaker this morning is Steve Saint, son of Nate Saint. If that name sounds slightly familiar, it is because you have heard the story of Jim Elliot, Ed McCully, Roger Youderian, Pete Fleming and Nate Saint, their missionary pilot. These five men became famous for their lives and deaths while attempting to share the gospel with a savage tribe in Ecuador, 1956. In this video you will meet Steve Saint, not just the 5-year old boy who suddenly had to grow up without a dad, but a charismatic character with a heart of love, compassion, forgiveness and insight into suffering and the goodness of God.

By the conclusion of this video, our speaker comes to a number of observations and conclusions. Let's watch.

#### VIDEO

Steve Saint gave four biblical reasons for suffering.

1. God uses suffering as punishment. (1 Chron 21:12)
2. God uses suffering to demonstrate His power. (John 9:3)
3. God uses suffering to build endurance, perseverance and character. (James 1, Rom 9)
4. God uses suffering to keep mankind humble. (2 Cor 12:7)

He also drew five conclusions from life when living for God.

1. If God could plan the death of His own Son, He could plan the suffering for you.
2. God doesn't owe us, even if we do what He wants us to do.
3. God changes hearts by means we would never dream.
4. God does not want us to walk this life without Him.
5. The only sure way to maturity in Christ is through suffering.

"God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our conscience, but shouts in our pains. It is His megaphone to rouse a deaf world." C.S. Lewis

Quoting Jim Elliott, "He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose."

In Paul Tripp's book, "Instruments in the Redeemer's Hands", Tripp states,

"We tend to be shortsighted and self-absorbed. We forget that God's primary goal is not changing our situations and relationships so that we are happy, but changing us through our situations and relationships so that we will be holy..... Our experiences today do not reflect God's inattention or unfaithfulness, but His jealous love."