

THE GIFT OF PAIN
JAMES 1:4 / 1-27-19 / A.M.

I. FIRST, GOD USES PAIN TO GOAD US.

- A. Goad means to motivate or move us.
- B. So pain makes you want to change--Luke 15:14-18.

II. SECOND, GOD USES PAIN TO GUIDE US.

- A. God uses pain to guide us like a bit in a horse's mouth guides it.
- B. Pain is God's bridal and bit to guide us—Heb. 12:7 (LB)

III. THIRD, GOD USES PAIN TO GAUGE US.

- A. In other words, pain is a measuring tool.
- B. God uses pain to make us better on the inside—Isa. 48:10 & James 1:2-3.

IV. FOURTH, GOD USES PAIN TO GROW US.

- A. It's possible to grow spiritually when things are going good, but pain grows us faster and deeper than pleasure ever could—James 1:4.
- B. Pain, then, is the cost of growth.