Purpose & Possibility in Pain

PROBLEM & POWER OF PAIN • BRAD SAAB • NOVEMBER 1, 2026

BIG IDEA: God has created you to BE something and DO something. He uses pain to PLACE you, PRUNE you, and PERFECT you.

Genesis 1:27–28 *–So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. [28] And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth."*

PLACE

Genesis 50:20 *– As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.*

PRUNE

John 15:1–2 *– "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. [2] Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit." (Tie back to fruit in Genesis 1)*

2 Corinthians 12:7–9 *– So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited. [8] Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. [9] But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect (τελέω – teleō) in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.*

PERFECT

James 1:2–4 *– Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, [3] for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. [4] And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect (τέλειος – teleios) and complete, lacking in nothing.*

Romans 5:2–8 *– Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.* [3] *Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance,* [4] *and endurance produces character, and character produces hope,* [5] *and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.* [6] *For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.* [7] *For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die—* [8] *but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

NEXTWEEK: Self-Inflicted Suffering

REFLECT & RESPOND

- PLACE: How is God using pain to bring you back to Himself or to get you where He wants you to go?
- PRUNE: how is God using pain to decrease baggage and increase focus?
- PERFECT: how is God using pain to bring you into His intended destination for you or into full maturity?