

Not every suffering we have, not everything that goes wrong in our lives is a result of sin. A dentist once told me he had a spiritist girl as a patient. He said she's a wonderful girl, I just love to have her as a patient because when that drill begins to hurt her teeth and I say to her, Does that hurt? She says, Don't worry about it, don't worry about it, it's some sin I've committed, that's what's causing my teeth to hurt that way. He said it was great having a patient like that. That's not true. Not all the suffering in the world is a result of sin. We may suffer from other reasons. We suffer because we make mistakes.

If you are careless and go outside in the cold without a coat you may get pneumonia. If you are careless, you may drive carelessly and have an accident. God may cause us to suffer the result of our mistakes. God wants us to learn from our mistakes. God says in that wonderful 91st Psalm that he will hold us up that we be not injured; he will protect us by day and by night. God will protect us from the results of our mistakes. I have often seen in my life where I have made a bad mistake, and God has protected me from it. I have had occasion to praise Him for it that when I made some foolish mistake which would naturally have led to some miserable result, God has protected me from it. God protected me. But you have no right to expect God to protect you twice from the same mistake. God wants us to learn from our mistake. When you drive carelessly and almost have an accident and were almost killed, you say, How wonderfully God protected me this time. That's no excuse to drive carelessly next time. You should learn from your mistakes what He wants you to learn.

I think that is very important. You can expect God to protect you from one mistake, especially if it's done innocently. But he wants us to learn from our mistakes.

But there are many instances where we have suffering, where we have injury where it is not due to our own sins and where it is due to a mistake we have made. That, of course, is one of the great teachings of the book of Job. We read the first chapters and we read how Satan said to God, Take away all Job has and he will curse you to ~~w~~ your face. God says, No that's not true. I give you power to put Job through terrible suffering and you just see how that won't be the way you say. There was a great purpose in the counsels of God in this, but in the end Job wasn't even told what it was. We know, because we were given an insight into the heavenly situation, but as far as Job is concerned, Job never knew it. And there are situations in our lives situations that involve a certain suffering, a certain injury, a certain misery we have to go through. We are told in Hebrews that He made the captain of our salvation perfect through suffering. If he made Jesus perfect through suffering we can well believe that He has purposes for us, to give us certain experiences that are part of His purposes for us through all eternity that might seem very miserable to us at the time we are going through them. If we know it is not our sin that is causing the situation, if we know it is not the result of a mistake that we can learn not to repeat but to realize that then if things go wrong, then if there is ~~f~~ suffering