



NEW YEAR | NEW ENCOUNTERS

ENCOUNTER THREE: GOD IS IN THE PAIN

Pray and then read Isaiah 6:1-8

In this message, Pastor Jon encouraged us to recognize that God wants to encounter us on our darkest and most painful days. When something is happening to us, God wants to reveal Himself in us. He wants us to see how powerful He is and how He's working in the midst of what we're facing. When we see God clearly in that moment, we also see ourselves clearly, and that often comes with a revelation of something in us that needs to change. God doesn't want to condemn us, but He does want to convict us to grow. When we see ourselves clearly, we'll see our future clearly. God will use our pain and the areas where He wants us to grow to then help others who experience similar days of pain and weakness. Our perspective on our pain is important. *It can either be a jail than imprisons us or a school that empowers us.*

So, on our darkest days, we need stop running from God and run to God. We need to take steps to grow. And we need to allow God to use what we've been through to help others. There is purpose in our pain. Let's surrender it to God and let Him use it to make a difference in the world around us.

Discussion Questions

- When you are going through a painful time, do you tend to run towards God or from God? Why?
- What painful experience have you had that, if you surrendered it to God, could make a difference in the lives of others?
- What is one way that you have seen God turn your pain around for good in your life?

Prayer Focus

Father, thank You for the truth of Psalm 34:18: that when I am brokenhearted, You are close to me. Thank You for working in the midst of my painful circumstances to heal me and help me grow. I surrender my pain to You and ask You to show me the purpose You have in it. Give me steps to take to use what I've gone through to help others.

Next Steps

Often, a sacrifice is painful. Consider what steps you need to take to grow in the areas God has revealed to you. These steps may include spending time with God daily, serving at church and in your community, being water baptized, or tithing.

Application Tip

This is a great opportunity for you to share a part of your testimony that shows how God has used your pain for gain. Ask God what He'd like for you to share with your group.