



Your Experiences Matter to God

- Everyone has experiences, and God uses them
 - No part of a person's life is wasted but rather is used by God for a greater purpose.
- How God uses personal experience
 - To build empathy and compassion
 - To create a powerful testimony
 - To motivate others to keep going through their own challenges, knowing that it is possible to get through them
 - To be surrendered to God and refining a person's character.
 - God uses problems to build spiritual strength.



Key Ways God Uses Human Experiences

- Refining character & faith:
 - Trials are used to purify faith, build character, and break self-sufficiency, forcing reliance on God rather than self.
- Equipping for ministry:
 - Painful experiences, once healed, are used to minister to others experiencing the same hardships, transforming personal pain into a ministry of comfort.
- Preparing for future purpose:
 - Life's detours, struggles, and successes are, according to faith perspectives, purposefully woven together to prepare individuals for specific roles or missions.
- Validating God's strength in weakness:
 - Rather than requiring perfection, God uses human limitations and weaknesses to highlight His own power, making, for instance, a personal story of struggle a testament to His grace.
- Mobilizing action:
 - God uses personal stories, even past failures, to motivate others and model hope, showing others they can survive similar struggles.

Experience:

- The power of personal experiences
 - This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses, for **He faced all of the same testings we do**, yet he did not sin. So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most (Hebrews 4:15-16).
 - Now I want you to know, brothers, that **what has happened to me** has really served to advance the gospel (Philippians 1:12).
 - He comforts us in all **our troubles** so that we can comfort others. When they are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us (2 Corinthians 1:4).
 - And we know that in ALL things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose (Romans 8:28).
 - Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God (2 Corinthians 1:3-4).

Joseph (Genesis 37-50)

- His experiences
 - Betrayed by his brothers
 - Sold into slavery
 - Thrown into prison
 - Rose to become the second most powerful man in Egypt
 - Saved millions of lives
 - Never forgot that God was in control
- [Joseph said,] You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives (Genesis 50:20).

Biblical Examples of God Using Experience

- James

- God uses the experience of James, the half-brother of Jesus, to glorify Jesus by transforming him from a skeptic into a devoted servant and leader of the early church.

- Moses

- After fleeing Egypt in exile, Moses spent 40 years as a shepherd in obscurity. God then used his history and experience to call him to lead the Israelites out of slavery.

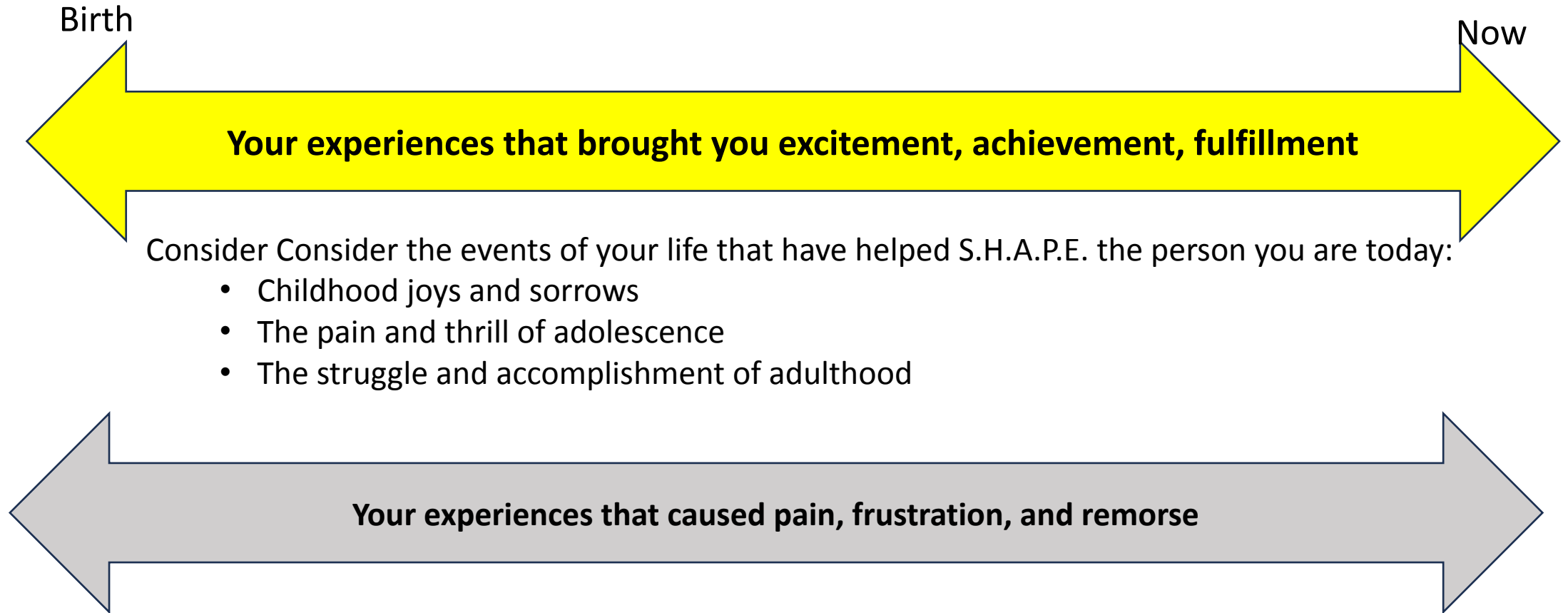
- Paul

- A man who persecuted the early church, he experienced a dramatic conversion and became one of history's most influential evangelists. His past became a powerful illustration of God's redemptive work

- Peter

- After denying Jesus, Peter was restored and became a foundational leader of the early church. His story of failure and forgiveness shows that God's grace is greater than any mistake

Your Life Journey



There is Purpose in Your Past

Positive Portraits

- An award (personal experience)
- A pattern of achievement (vocational experience)
- A godly marriage (friendship, mentorship) that comforts or challenges you (relational experience)
- Academic degrees, training certificates, ongoing development in areas of special interest (educational experience)
- A history of success in sharing your faith or leading Christians to deeper insight; your own acceptance of Christ and spiritual growth (spiritual experience)

Painful Portraits

- God wants to use your painful experiences to minister to others as well—times when your pain threshold was tested and your endurance was stretched to the breaking point.
 - Divorce
 - Death
 - Cancer
 - Job loss
 - Disease
 - Suicide
 - affairs
 - Abuse
 - Alcoholism
 - Depression
 - Bankruptcy
 - Miscarriage
 - Abortion

God doesn't Waste Pain or Experiences

- To get a grip on how your experiences have shaped you, pray for discernment and record your reflections under the following categories;
 - My spiritual experiences (memorable decisions and time with God)
 - My painful experiences (memorable hurts, trials and lessons learned)
 - My educational experiences (favorite subjects, seminars etc.)
 - My ministry experiences (How I have served in the past)

How would you use these achievements for God's purpose in your life? How do you want God to use these achievements for His purpose?

Personally	You may have received an award that is meaningful to you	1. 2. 3.	
Vocationally	You have achieved to productivity, sales or leadership	1. 2. 3.	
Relationally	You may enjoy/benefit from a friends or others	1. 2. 3..	
Educationally	You have academic degree or training certificate	1. 2. 3.	
Spiritually	Church membership, mission experiences, deeper relationship with God	1. 2. 3.	

Painful Portraits

- Personal points of pain

- 1.
- 2.

- Vocational points of pain

- 1.
- 2.

- Relational points of pain

- 1.
- 2.

- Educational points of pain

- 1.
- 2.

- Spiritual points of pain

- 1.
- 2.

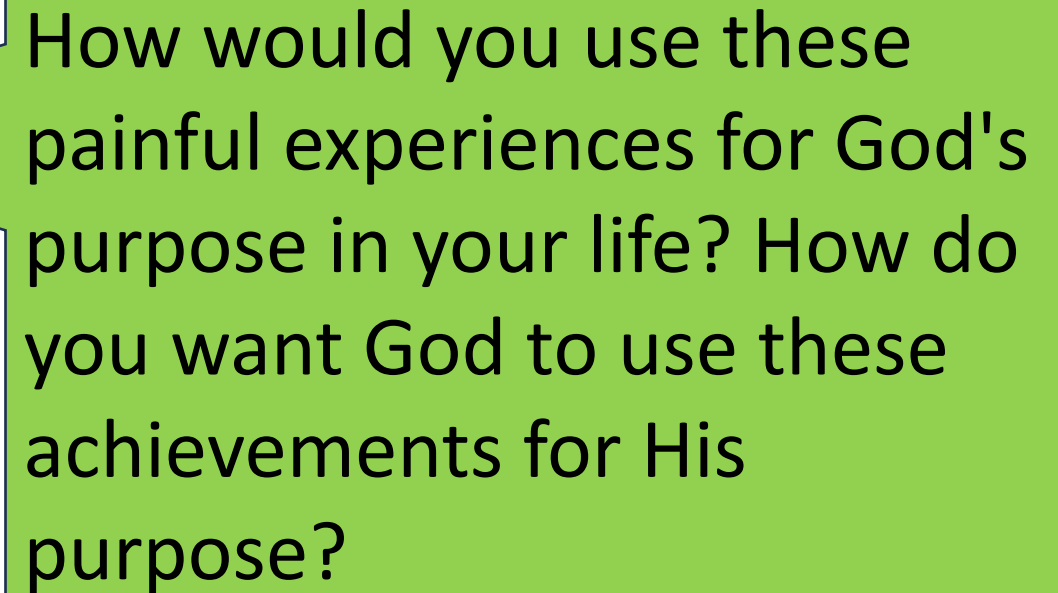
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Kingdom Purpose

- Kingdom dream
 - What dream, vision, or message do you feel God planning you to achieve for Him that you couldn't fulfill without Him?
 - You may write few words to describe your dream (for ex., I dream about mentoring young women).
- How would you fulfill your kingdom dream?
 - Set up your plan (short-term & long-term).
 - Find your area of service.
 - Cultivate habits.
 - Daily surrender to God, study God's Word.
 - Weekly attend worship, share God's love, serve others.
 - Survey your progress.