



[John 9:2-3](#)

(2) And His disciples asked Him, saying, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" (3) Jesus answered, "Neither did this man sin, nor his parents; rather, this blindness came so that the works of God might be manifested in him.

A Faithful Version

At some time or other, every human being experiences suffering. A baby causes pain by being born. Many live by inflicting pain on others. We all suffer pain and eventually experience death. Granted, believers alive when [Christ](#) returns to this earth will be transformed in a moment, but with this exception, the lot of all is to suffer and die ([Hebrews 9:27](#)). Eliphaz spoke truthfully to Job when he told the suffering patriarch, "For affliction does not come from the dust, nor does trouble spring from the ground; yet man is born to trouble, as the sparks fly upward" ([Job 5:6-7](#)).

Although everyone—Christians as well as non-Christians—suffers at some point in life, it is not true that all suffer alike. Seen from the outside, a Christian and a non-Christian suffering from the same incurable disease may appear to undergo the same experience. According to God's Word, however, the two are not equal ([II Corinthians 6:15-16](#)).

From God's perspective, the non-Christian is suffering without purpose, or perhaps he is suffering at the whim of [Satan](#), who is merely doing as he pleases with a member of his own kingdom. In the case of the Christian, though, an all-wise heavenly Father is permitting suffering in a carefully controlled situation to accomplish a desirable purpose. [God](#) is a Father who disciplines His children ([II Corinthians 6:18](#); [Hebrews 12:5-8](#)), a [truth](#) that the book of Job vividly teaches.

So what is the purpose of a Christian's suffering? To learn from it, we must ask what we are to learn; if we are to benefit, we must ask how. Some of Christ's words spoken when [healing](#) the man born blind suggest the answers to these questions.

The Berean: Daily Verse and Commentary for John 9:2-3 (<http://www.theberean.org>)
— Martin G. Collins

To learn more, see:

[The Miracles of Jesus Christ: Healing a Man Born Blind \(Part One\)](#)

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