



[John 9:2-3](#)

(2) His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" (3) "Neither this man nor his parents sinned," said Jesus, "but this happened so that the work of God might be displayed in his life.

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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.

— Martin G. Collins

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

To learn more, see:

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

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