

God's Rx for Pain

Draw Near
April 23, 2006

An Introduction to Suffering

1. The Experience of Suffering is **normative**

2. The Cause of Suffering is **varied**
 - **My sins**

 - **The sins of others**

 - **Living boldly as a Christian**

 - **Living in a broken world** **(we're in the "in-between")**

3. God Remains Sovereign even in Suffering, and has Purpose in our Pain
 - **To deepen our love for God**

 - **To orient our perspective toward heaven**

 - **To refine our faith and holiness**

 - **To enrich our love with others**

 - **To embolden our confidence in witness**

God's Prescription for our suffering: Draw Near!

- **He suffered**

- **He sympathizes**

- **He strengthens**

Suffering is the lens through which we see God more clearly and the filter through which we love Him more exclusively.