



CHRISTIAN
SUPPORT
FOR
CHRONIC
ILLNESS

WORDS OF HOPE

from
HopeKeepers®Indy

Volume 1 Issue 8

August 2016

2016 UPCOMING MEETINGS

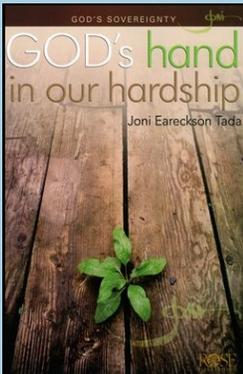
Saturdays
2-4 PM

August 13
September 10
October 8

Email us for
meeting location in
Brownsburg, IN



*In the event of bad
weather or change in
meeting location, we
will notify on Facebook,
and email, text or call
before the meeting.*

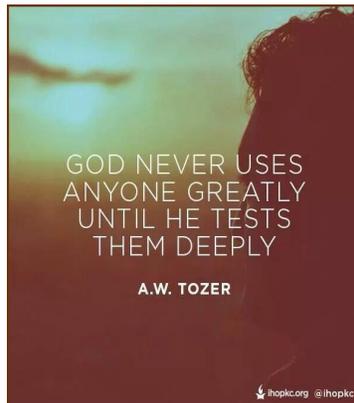


JULY SPECIAL GIFT

Join us each month to receive a beautiful, inspirational 14 page laminated pamphlet by author Joni Eareckson Tada.



JOIN US ON AUGUST 13, WHEN WE DISCUSS DIFFICULT TOPICS THAT RESONATE WITH THOSE WHO LIVE WITH CHRONIC ILLNESS.



GOD IS SOVEREIGN. HE HAS DOMINION, POWER, AND CONTROL OVER ALL ETERNITY.

- How can we understand God's role in our suffering?
- How can a good and loving God allow suffering?
- If God hates suffering, why doesn't He get rid of suffering in the world?
- Why do honest, good people have to suffer so?
- What possible good can come through suffering that is out of our control?
- Is Satan responsible for suffering?

July Topic: "GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY" *God's Hand in Our Hardship*



Quotes from Joni Eareckson Tada's pamphlet:

- "Suffering can cultivate a proper reverence and respect for God in our hearts."
- "It helps us appreciate the sacrifice Christ made to rescue us from Hell."
- "It fills our hearts with gratitude to Jesus who bore our sins and who will ultimately put an end one day to sin, suffering, and sorrow."
- "Suffering can remind us of God's patience and loving kindness toward an unbelieving world. It is only by the restraining hand of God that the world has not disappeared with a fiery roar."
- "Suffering pushes us to let go of the sins that Christ suffered to forgive."
- "Suffering is the textbook that teaches us about our true selves and what is hidden in our hearts."
- "Suffering reminds us that this life can never keep its promises, and it lifts our sights toward Heaven where one day every tear will be forgotten."
- "Affliction unites us with Christ as we share in the fellowship of His sufferings."
- "Hardships increase our empathy toward others who face similar problems."



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Scriptures About God's Sovereignty

Lamentations 3:32-33 "Though He brings grief, He will show compassion, so great is His unfailing love. For He does not willingly bring affliction or grief to the children of men."

Psalms 33:10-11 "The LORD foils the plans of the nations, He thwarts the purposes of the peoples. But the plans of the Lord stand firm forever, the purposes of His heart through all generations."

Proverbs 19:9 "In his heart a man plans his course, but the LORD determines his steps."

Proverbs 19:21 "Many are the plans in a man's heart, but it is the LORD's purpose that prevails."

Isaiah 45:7 "I form the light and create darkness, I bring prosperity and create disaster; I the LORD, do all these things."

2 Corinthians 12:10 "That is why I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong."

2 Peter 3:9 "The LORD is not slow in keeping His promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance."



Notes from Marie: "It's Not About Me"

I am the first-born of four siblings, and was strong-willed from the start. Even as a child, I liked to set goals. I need order and organization. I like predictability and calm. I work best with schedules, planners, and deadlines. I place high value on honesty, hard work, and integrity. I am my own highest critic when it comes to standards and expectations. I don't like to disappoint myself, others, or the Lord.

Now, go back and count how many times you see the pronoun "I" in that paragraph. This will give you a good idea of my life prior to Multiple Sclerosis. You see, God had other plans for my life. MS is random, variable, and volatile in its symptoms - the very opposite of my personality. God has used the unpredictability of this quirky disease to bring me face to face with His sovereignty.

I wanted to control my own life and plan my own future. God wanted me to surrender to His purpose for my life and to place my future in His hands. Over time, God has revealed His power through a pattern of pain and suffering. I have learned that He has a higher purpose, and that the pain I endure in this lifetime is working toward that purpose. God holds the universe and all eternity in His hands. This life is just a "blip" on the screen of eternity. I can trust Him with my little life-span. I believe I never would have learned surrender to God's will without the trials of MS. God's sweetest lessons in my life have often come at times of deepest pain.

He has taught me that it's not about me. It's all about Him!

2 Corinthians 1:3-4

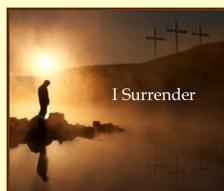
"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God."



Marie Miller - HKI Facilitator

"IT'S ALL ABOUT YOU / JESUS, LOVER OF MY SOUL"

It's all about You, Jesus,
And all this is for You,
For Your glory and your fame.
It's not about me,
As if You should do things my way.
You alone are God,
And I surrender to Your ways.



Jesus, lover of my soul
All consuming fire is in Your gaze.
Jesus, I want you to know
I will follow You all my days.
For no one else in history is like You,
And history itself belongs to You.
Alpha and Omega, You have loved me,
And I will share eternity with You.

Lyrics and Music by Paul Oakley