

Why do some people seem to experience less pain than others? Why do some people experience more pain?

The answer practically overlaps the answer to the question on why people often live more successful or more enjoyable lives. To understand why some people experience more or less pain than others, read that Q&A first.

When it comes to why people experience more or less pain than others, there are a number of factors. Keep in mind that when we talk about pain here, we mean painful heart disturbances... not necessarily physical pain. The heart disturbances we experience are related to Satan's attacks. In other words, the question above could be restated like this... "Why do some people seem to experience fewer attacks by Satan than by others? Why do some people experience more attacks by Satan?" One part of the answer is that Satan wants some people on his side more than others. Obviously Satan isn't attacking a lot of the people on his side... he doesn't have to work really hard all the time to get them to fall - they are already on his side! Still, Satan doesn't really like them just because they are on his side, so he does attack them too when it serves his self-centered purposes. And, it doesn't take much for them to fall again.

Another part of the answer is that God allows Satan to attack us in painful ways not because God likes to see us in pain, but because He didn't create us in sin in the first place. God did, however, create us in the midst of the spiritual war between Him and Satan. God did create us with the ability to experience heart disturbances, which are often painful. However, they often wouldn't be as painful had mankind not fallen to sin in the first place. What this means is that since mankind fell into sin, we now experience really bad sides of being in the spiritual war. It didn't have to be that way, but it is since mankind fell.

When it comes to why some people are attacked more than others, sometimes the answer has to do with the fact that all human beings are interrelated. Let's touch on that.

We all have ways that we tend to fall to some of Satan's attacks without realizing we are doing so! These tendencies are passed along family lines. If you record your experiences in trials on your Painful Pattern Tool, and then study it, you will probably begin to notice patterns in Satan's attacks on you, and in your tendencies to fall. You will probably notice that the ways you respond to Satan's attacks on you are similar not just to your parents, but to their parents, etc. This happens because the lives of us humans are interrelated and intertwined to various degrees. This is due to the relational nature of God's creation. This interrelationship is an aspect of being born into sin. The interrelationship is, by the way, also how Jesus Christ was able to die for our sins, and for us to be saved from eternal condemnation! Still, we have to accept Him by exercising our free will. Similarly, in the pains of trials, we also have to exercise our free will to transform our hearts to experience the peace of Christ in them!

We can easily observe the interrelatedness of humans in the biology of genetics. Be careful not to assume that everything is all about genetics or that genetics control all of our lives - we are spiritual beings inside physical bodies, not the other way around. There are factors other than genetics that shape and influence our biology. The three parts of the human spirit are among those factors. Whether we interact with God to use our hearts and minds in godly ways is also a factor in shaping and influencing our biology. Part of the relational nature of the world God designed reflects the fact that while each human is interrelated to all other humans, each individual also makes conscious and unconscious decisions that can shape and determine their

experiences in the future. To some God-permitted degree, each of our decisions will impact the "starting point" of our children.

The bottom line is that whether or not you feel you experience more or less pain than others, you have the opportunity in Christ to transform that pain to peace. It does require discerning how God would have you to change and embrace the truth of who you are or can be in Christ. When in pain, seek out the change!