

Nine Maxims –

from Swartley – “Health, Healing and the Church’s Mission”

Suffering is not God’s desire for us, but occurs in the process of life.

Suffering is not given in order to each us something,
But through it - we learn.

Suffering is not given to us to teach *others* something,
But through it - they may learn.

Suffering is not given to punish us,
But is sometimes the consequence of sinful acts or poor judgment.

Suffering does not occur because our faith is weak,
But through it - our faith may be strengthened.

Suffering does not mean that God depends on it to achieve his purposes,
But through it - his purposes are sometimes revealed.

Suffering is not always to be avoided at all costs,
But is sometimes willingly endured for redemptive purposes.

Suffering may either destroy us –
Or contribute to significant meaning in life.

The will of God has more to do with how we respond to life,
Than with how life deals with us.