

LISTENER GUIDE

The Stakes Are Higher Than You Think

by Joni Eareckson Tada (True Woman '10)

Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted. In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood (Heb. 12:3–4).

Jesus helps us not grow _____ or lose _____. He helps us _____.

But my righteous one shall live by faith, and if he shrinks back, my soul has no pleasure in him.” But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who have faith and preserve their souls (Heb. 10:38–39).

So that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places (Eph. 3:10).

God wants to use our lives to teach lessons about Himself for the benefit of _____ beings. Angels, even demons, are intensely interested in the way we respond to our afflictions because it teaches them something about God.

Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you in turmoil within me? Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my salvation (Ps. 42:5).

We press on because we know our lives are on _____.

We don't suffer for _____.

We never suffer _____.

Our response to hardship is never _____.

God's _____ is on the line. Our lives are on display; it's all for God's glory.

- When the spirit world sees God's strong arms uphold you in your weakness, the Father gets the glory.

- When the spirit world sees God condescend to come to your aid when you are fearful, the Father gets the glory.

The angelic and dark powers of the entire universe learn how high and wide and rich and deep is His incredible mercy and power and love. They are amazed to see that it is the mighty strength of Christ's resurrection that is giving you the power to say "no" to bitterness and "yes" to grace.

- They learn about His wisdom, His unsearchable judgments, and His ways past finding out.
- They learn just how far His unfathomable compassion will go in stooping to lift your spirits.

But when you embrace your Savior in the midst of hardship, the entire universe sees Jesus as worthy, able, and powerful. They are astounded at His mercy and condescending to us.

Though he slay me, I will hope in him (Job 13:15).

A statement like that speaks highly of Job, but it speaks far more highly of God. Nothing deflates the devil more than when God's people choose the Lord over fear, doubts, sin, affliction, and pain.

The issue of suffering is really all about _____ (2 Cor. 1:20).

Your suffering, like nothing else, is preparing you to meet God. You have something in common with Jesus Christ, and that's suffering.

In heaven, we will have the fellowship of sharing in His joy. Our joy will be made more wonderful by all the suffering we endured on earth and the gracious response with which we deal with it.

