

A THEOLOGY OF

DEATH

PURPOSE, PREPARATION, AND HOPE

WEEK THREE: DRAWING NEAR — AGING & SUFFERING

Living in the midst of a culture that would have us believe that suffering is meaningless and aging is to be avoided at all costs, we have to be willing to face the spiritual work that God has for us now in our aging and suffering. There is a way to embrace physical brokenness that shapes your soul and shifts your hope — off of yourself and towards God.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How have you seen suffering shape you spiritually? Have you ever look at suffering as a means of preparing you for death and eternity?
2. Looking at your current life stage, what “work” has God given you to do by bringing suffering into your life?
3. What does it look like for you as a Christian (and for us as Christian community) to embrace suffering and aging for the purpose of “shifting your hope”?
4. As we embrace suffering and death, we are releasing control and releasing idolatry. What areas of your life will prove to be the biggest challenge as you continue aging when it comes to releasing control (ex: children, work, marriage, etc.)?

COMMIT TO MEMORY

¹⁶ That is why we never give up. Though our bodies are dying, our spirits are being renewed every day. ¹⁷ For our present troubles are small and won't last very long. Yet they produce for us a glory that vastly outweighs them and will last forever! — 2 Corinthians 4:16-17