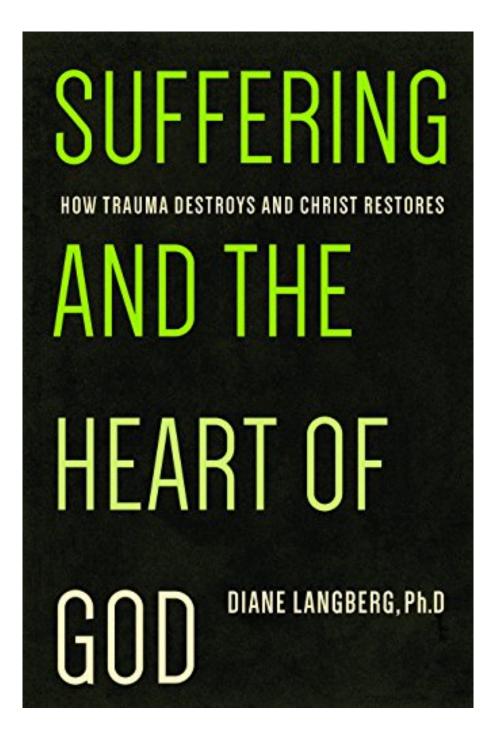


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Review

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Do Trauma and Abuse Have the Last Word?

When someone suffers through trauma, can healing happen? And, if yes, how does it happen? Dr. Diane Langberg tackles these complex and difficult questions with the insights she has gained through more than forty years of counseling those whose lives have been destroyed by trauma and abuse. Her answer carefully explained in Suffering and the Heart of God is Yes, what trauma destroys, Christ can and does restore.

But it s not a fast process, instead much patience is required from family, friends, and counselors as they wisely and respectfully help victims unpack their traumatic suffering through talking, tears, and time. And it s not a process that can be separated from the work of God in both a counselor and counselee. Dr. Langberg calls all of those who wish to help sufferers to model Jesus s sacrificial love and care in how they listen, love, and guide. The heart of God is revealed to sufferers as they grow to understand the cross of Christ and how their God came to this earth and experienced such severe suffering that he too is well-acquainted with grief. The cross of Christ is the lens that transforms and redeems traumatic suffering and its aftermath, not only for the sufferer, but it also transforms those who walk with the suffering. This book will be a great help to anyone who loves, listens to, and seeks to help someone impacted by trauma and abuse. There is no quick fix, but there is the hope for healing through the love of God in Christ.

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5 of 5 people found the following review helpful.Helpful Understanding of the Destructive Effects of Trauma and How the Gospel HealsBy Craig P. Hurst"I think a look at suffering humanity would lead to the realization that trauma is perhaps the greatest mission field of the twenty-first century."

"As the people of God we have been called in any ways to serve as the rescue workers of this world. We are invited into the fellowship of the sufferings of Christ. That means we are called into the place of darkness and death because that is where he went."

In .41 second Google will bring up over 201 million search results for the word suffering. At every moment of the day there are thousands and thousands of people suffering all around the world. While one person is experiencing a high moment in their life there are thousands of others experiencing deep and painful suffering at the same time.

We cannot avoid suffering in our own lives. Pretending, as some religions teach, that is does not exist is no help. In a world full of sin it is only a matter of time before a person experiences suffering. When we do experience it we need ways to deal with it from people who are capable of helping us.

Bringing understanding about and the healing only Christ can offer to victims of suffering and trauma Diane Langberg has written Suffering and the Heart of God: How Trauma Destroys and Christ Restores (New Growth Press, 2015). Langberg has counseled trauma victims the world over for over forty years and works with a team of experienced counselors across numerous fields to help hurting people.

There are three reasons why Langberg's book is a must read for all professional and church counselors. First, Langberg's forty years of trauma counseling gives her a unique perspective and vast amounts of knowledge, wisdom and skill in working with trauma victims. Her experience with a variety of trauma situations has given her a picture of the evil that suffering brings into peoples lives. From dealing with domestic abuse in the US to helping the victims of the Rwanda genocide, she has an authority like very few others in her field.

As a result of her vast experiences, Langberg is able to present the reader with a picture of the suffering in trauma from a multitude of angels. Langberg covers everything from the psychology of suffering, the spiritual effects of suffering, living day to day with suffering, grief, the church and abuse, domestic violence, and even the role shame plays in trauma. This books is a chance to sit at the foot of a uniquely qualified counselor.

The second reason this book is so good is because of Langberg's ability to apply the gospel to victims of trauma. Central to the hope she offers in her counseling is the reality and power of the resurrection of Christ. The suffering that trauma can take people into the pits of despair. It can take them to the grave. Jesus went to the grave Himself because of and for our sin and the sin of others. He rose out of the grave to new life and that resurrection life is available to us; to those who are suffering and experiencing trauma. When all seems lost as a result of our suffering we can be found in Christ because of His suffering.

The final reason this book is a must read is because Langberg of the challenge it is to those who are counseling victims of trauma. The primary reason, she argues, that we avoid dealing with suffering is because of our own egocentrism. Not only do we want to avoid experiencing suffering in our own lives but we want to avoid it in the lives of others. We don't want to touch the suffering of others or be touched by it. We want to distance ourselves from the sin that causes the suffering in the lives of others but in doing so we forget that it effects us as well. Langberg writes

"We are not healthy doctors working with sickness. We are sick doctors who are trying to grasp the nature and impact of a life-threatening disease that has invaded our own souls, minds, and hearts. Whatever this disease has done to our so-called patients, it has done or can do to us." (30)

Christ was not egocentric when it came to the suffering of humanity. The Son of God emptied Himself of the position He had at the right hand of the Father and took on human sinful flesh in order to redeem us from its weaknesses that our sin brought on in order to bring us back to the Father with Him. This is how we are to follow Christ when it comes to helping others with their suffering. We walk and live among the dead because that is what Jesus did for us. We offer the hope of the resurrection to the dead because that is Jesus did for us. We offer the hope we are as much in need of it as those to whom we offer it to in the name of Christ.

Suffering and the Heart of God is an amazing book that will give readers much to chew on with regard to suffering, its victims, and the hope of the gospel. Part of the power of her approach is that she is not writing from a merely academic perspective. This is not a clinical textbook with pat and stock observations and answers. This is a book borne out of lived experience with suffering in her own life and the life of others.

This is a book that proclaims the superior healing power of the gospel over the power suffering can have in our lives.

I received this book for free from New Growth Press for this review. I was not required to write a positive

review. The opinions I have expressed are my own. I am disclosing this in accordance with the Federal Trade Commission's 16 CFR, Part 255 : "Guides Concerning the Use of Endorsements and Testimonials in Advertising."

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Gritty, Theological, Convicting!

By Matt

I am deeply grateful to New Growth Press for furnishing a copy for this review. This offering by Diane Langberg is a profound assessment of God's redemptive working in the hearts and lives of sufferers, and in particular, of trauma victims. In it, Dr. Langberg distills her impressive resume and experience into a thoughtful and helpful book that belongs on every counselor's bookshelf. Langberg integrates a beautiful Christian orthodoxy, a vast knowledge of the counseling world, and an adept capacity for storytelling into a helpful whole. This book reads at times like a prophet, at times like well-written case studies, and at times like Christology. Reading this book seriously will force you onto your knees in prayer and into the lives of the broken. I took several months to read this book, in part, because I saw my own need to absorb it well.

Let me put it plainly: If you minister in any capacity, you cannot afford to not read this book.

To see the rest of the review, visit: http://www.thinkcredo.org/blog/suffering-and-the-heart-of-god-a-review

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful.

Highly recommend. One of the best books I have read.

By L. Forman

Written for professional counselors. I am not one but have friends who have gone through trauma. This book is written in a way that a lay person can easily follow. I highly recommend it for anyone who wants to be effective in helping those who have suffered trauma due to death, war, disease, abuse, weather events, genocide, etc.

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"We live in a broken world and evil is real. Where the true light of the gospel of Christ goes, the darkness of evil in this world retreats. William Wilberforce reflected the character of Christ into the eighteenth century

British Empire and faithfully led the fight against slavery for forty years until it was outlawed. Diane Langberg has for forty years looked into the eyes of those wounded by evil and been a powerful voice for healing, justice, and truth. This book is a place of insight, wisdom, encouragement, and challenge for the body of Christ to love our precious Lord and to reflect his heart and love to the brokenhearted." Greg Pritchard, PhD, Director of European Leadership Forum, President of Forum of Christian Leaders

"Diane Langberg has seen the effects of trauma all over the globe from Rwandan survivors of genocide, to inner city kids plagued with PTSD, to suburban moms trapped in violent marriages, to middle schoolers who cut themselves just to feel something, to big steeple pastors in American churches. Suffering is real and it really hurts body and soul. In Suffering and the Heart of God, Diane Langberg never diminishes the pain of suffering, but neither does she despair. By looking to the suffering of the cross of Christ, Diane Langberg leads us to hope and healing."

Frank A. James, PhD, DPhil, President, Biblical Theological Seminary

"This book is a powerful invitation into the fellowship of the suffering, a reparative work of the vulnerable, afflicted, and abused. Dr. Langberg is gentle and caring to the victims, confrontational to the abusers, and challenging to the church, which often fails to be a refuge. As a therapist and trainer, this is the best manual I've seen on what a therapist's heart should look like. A good portion of the book is dedicated to teaching how not to be consumed by the evil in this world, pointing to Christ who can offer restoration to all." Stefana-Ioana Racorean, Family psychotherapist and trainer, Dianoia Institute of Family Therapy and Systemic Practice; The Association of Christian Psychologists in Romania

"As someone who has prosecuted, investigated, and confronted child sexual abuse for over twenty years, I have encountered dark suffering up close. As a Christian, I have spent many hours agonizing how to reconcile such suffering with a God who calls himself "love." Suffering and the Heart of God is an amazing book that does a masterful job in helping to see suffering through the heart of a loving God who knows and understands suffering and the pain it creates. This book brings hope to the sufferer who wonders where God is in the midst of it all. It's a must-read!"

Boz Tchividjian, JD, Executive Director, GRACE (Godly Response to Abuse in the Christian Environment)

"I challenge you to name a more influential Christian psychologist today than Dr. Langberg. This is not hyperbole! While an impressive communicator, brilliant thinker, and an astute therapist, the real reason for her influence is her willingness to be a student first—of broken people, of herself, and of God. Too often influential leaders spend much time touting themselves. This book will show you something different, in that you will see more of God and his heart for suffering people than you will of Dr. Langberg—just as she would want it."

Philip G. Monroe, PsyD, Professor of Counseling & Psychology, Biblical Seminary Graduate School of Counseling and Global Trauma Recovery Institute

"God never wastes a wound. He is in the midst of our darkest moment revealing himself—full of love, truth, hope, and healing. This book is an absolute treasure—a gift of grace to us all." Tim Clinton, President, American Association of Christian Counseling

"Diane Langberg brings to these moving essays decades of experience working with trauma survivors in the United States and abroad. This is no arms-length reflection on the nature of human suffering. Throughout,

she repeatedly points her readers to Jesus Christ, the Suffering Servant, who is the only hope for victim and perpetrator alike—and for the counselor who desires to be used by God to make a difference amidst terrible brokenness and sin."

Michael R. Emlet, MDiv, MD, Faculty and Counselor, the Christian Counseling and Educational Foundation (CCEF); author of CrossTalk: Where Life and Scripture Meet

"Do not read this book unless you are genuinely open to being led by the Holy Spirit to become more involved in ministering 'to the least of these' in Christ's name. Dr. Langberg has written a powerful and thorough summary of the complex reality of trauma in our world today. She has described Christ's Gethsemane weeping and his Calvary caring for those who are wounded and needy, and she calls us to weep and to watch and to care with him. She challenges us—Will we weep and watch and care, or will we sleep?" Dr. Samuel Logan, Associate International Director, The World Reformed Fellowship

"As a Rwandan who lived through genocide, experienced my own trauma, and witnessed trauma for my people and my clients, I know firsthand the truth of what Diane teaches in this book. Until you understand the psychology of evil, sin, and suffering, many things will remain hidden and unanswered, but Christ can transform lives affected by emotional trauma into instruments to restore life and turn victim into victor. Thank you, Diane, for addressing this difficult and often hidden topic."

Baraka Paulette Uwingeneye, President, Rwandan Association of Christian Counselors; Director of Aftercare, International Justice Mission, Rwanda

"Diane drops insightful one-liners like others drop names. I remember the first time I heard her describe trauma as the 'mission field of the twenty-first century.' Suddenly, everything we were grappling with in the field made sense. A thousand lightbulbs went off. Synapses clicked. That one sentence opened up a new direction in my personal life and vocation. Read at your own risk because there's no going back to the way life was before."

John Walter, President, African Leadership; cofounder of The Trauma Healing Institute

"When I get the chance to listen to or read Diane Langberg's work, I take it. Of the five greatest talks I've heard in my sixty-eight years, she gave two of them. Her writing inspires. She is as tough-minded as people come, never underestimating the horrors of life. But walking with her through those horrors inspires me with hope. Because Diane walks with Jesus, and where Jesus is, there is hope. Suffering and the Heart of God: How Trauma Destroys and Christ Restores will turn your heart more fully to God in the midst of the evils and mundane cares of the world that you face. Please read it."

Everett L. Worthington, Jr., Author of Moving Forward: Six Steps to Forgiving Yourself and Breaking Free from the Past

"Stepping into the trenches with those whose lives have been blown apart by the heinous business of human trafficking means you're battling alongside them on many fronts: past, present, and future. The terrain is dark and hostile, and the Enemy seems to have won. But, as Langberg artfully reminds us, we are but chaplains in this war. The battle is the Lord's and the victory is certain. Be of good courage and press on!" Jeanne L. Allert, MEd, Founder and Executive Director, The Samaritan Women

About the Author

Diane Langberg, PhD, is a world-recognized authority on sex-trafficking and violence against women, setting up training programs to assist Rwandans and many others around the world in working with victims of trauma. She also directs her own Christian counseling practice, employing about fifteen other counselors, and was co-founder of The Place of Refuge, an innercity nonprofit in Philadelphia that works with the traumatized. Among Dr. Langberg s books are Counsel for Pastors Wives, On the Threshold of Hope, and Counseling Survivors of Sexual Abuse. She has also written an article for the book Reformed Means Missional, which has also been released as a minibook entitled Bringing Christ to Abused Women.

Suffering And The Heart Of God: How Trauma Destroys And Christ Restores By Diane Langberg In fact, publication is really a window to the world. Also lots of people might not appreciate reading books; guides will constantly give the specific information regarding fact, fiction, experience, journey, politic, faith, and a lot more. We are here a web site that offers collections of publications greater than the book store. Why? We offer you great deals of varieties of link to obtain guide Suffering And The Heart Of God: How Trauma Destroys And Christ Restores By Diane Langberg On is as you require this Suffering And The Heart Of God: How Trauma Destroys And Christ Restores By Diane Langberg You can find this book effortlessly here.