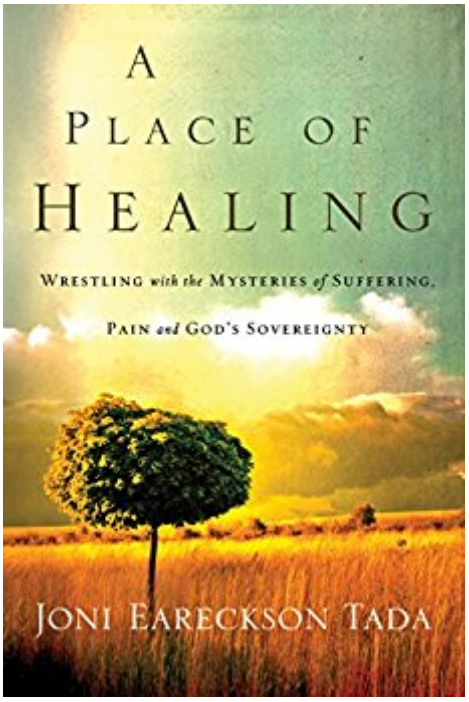
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A Place Of Healing: Wrestling With The Mysteries Of Suffering, Pain, And God's Sovereignty



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Synopsis

In this eloquent account of her current struggle with physical pain, Joni Eareckson Tada offers her perspective on divine healing, GodÃ¢â ¬â„¢s purposes, and what it means to live with joy.Over four decades ago, a diving accident left Joni a quadriplegic. Today, she faces a new battle: unrelenting pain. The ongoing urgency of this season in her life has caused Joni to return to foundational questions about suffering and GodÃ¢â ¬â„¢s will.A Place of Healing is not an ivory-tower treatise on suffering. ItÃ¢â ¬â„¢s an intimate look into the life of a mature woman of God. Whether readers are enduring physical pain, financial loss, or relational grief, Joni invites them to process their suffering with her. Together, they will navigate the distance between GodÃ¢â ¬â„¢s magnificent yes and heartbreaking noÃ¢â ¬â •and find new hope for thriving in-between. Ã Â

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Customer Reviews

In this book Joni plainly shares her latest struggle with intense physical pain. Due to the pain she

has re-visited the truths she has lived by the past 40 years of her disability. Her writings come from a place of reality. She does not white wash or sugar coat the reality of the pain or the struggle. She shares clearly what she has learned and practiced to stay focused on Jesus and not get sucked into and stuck in doubt, self-pity or despair.I loved this book, found it extremely helpful, inspiring and timely. The grace of God upon Joni's life is incredible and so God glorifying.I think every Christian would benefit greatly by reading this book.

A Place of Healing is Joni's look at suffering in light of God's sovereignty and goodness. If you are unfamiliar with Joni, she is a quadriplegic who has been used by God to minister to many since her diving accident led to her paralysis. As I was struggling with this issue I wanted to hear counsel from someone who had endured suffering. That being said, I trust the Scriptures an infinite times more than I do someone's experience, so I wanted someone who would open the Word of God and deal with the issue with Scripture as the key focus. I was not disappointed with this book or with Mrs. Eareckson Tada's counsel.Joni begins the book by giving a report of what is going on in her life at the time of writing. Her paralysis persists, but not she is enduring chronic pain. She deals with this to let the reader know where she is coming from, writing from the midst of a battle, but also to lead into the main question we face when we see suffering and worship a good God. Why? Not only the why question of suffering's existence, which can be easily seen from Scripture, but the why question of suffering in the life of a child of God who sincerely and faithfully seeks God's healing. Joni recounts an experience she had on a televangelist's program in which she was blindsided with a critique of her faith and the fact that she remained unhealed because of sin in her life and a lack of faith. This causes Joni pain, but coupled with a search of Scripture leads her to a realization that is important for us all to understand and accept, "(h)ere is what I believe: God reserves the right to heal or not ... as He sees fit."This is key! Without this, we will struggle with this issue unnecessarily and in a manner that will not lead to growth in holiness and faith, but rather doubt and despair. God is God and we are not and He will do what He chooses to do.the fact is I only know so much, I only understand so much, I only see so much, and I only grasp so much of what I do see. With Paul, I sometimes have to cry out, "Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out!" (Rom. 11:33). Not long ago, the words of this old hymn drifted into my mind: I am not skilled to understand What God has willed, what God has planned; I only know at His right hand, Stands One who is my Savior!1 Ah, there are many things that God has revealed--things I do know and understand. But there are many more things that He has not chosen to reveal yet and may not reveal this side of heaven. And one of

those things is why He sometimes chooses to step in and supernaturally heal one person and not another.We have to be ok with the truth that God is God. We have to be ok with the fact that He works things how He sees fit and that He is all-wise, all-loving and the definition of good. Will this convince an unbeliever while they wrestle with suffering in the world and the truth-claims of Christianity? Probably not. But really the only thing that will work in that situation is the regenerating power of God's Holy Spirit anyway. What this does do is remind me, a born-again believer in Christ, that He is good. And He is in control. And I can rest in that.Chapter 4 is entitled "What Benefit Is There to My Pain?". This chapter is an amazing read. Joni works through the benefits of suffering and how a good God uses suffering for the good of those who love Him and for His own glory. She goes over multiple points including how suffering can turn us from a dangerous/deadly path, how suffering increases our desire for Christ, how suffering reminds us of our frailty and weakness and how God can use suffering to make us more fruitful. Joni then gives a few detailed examples of how God has used her and the ministry He started with her called Joni and Friends to minister to, love on, reach out to and lead to the salvation of many who Joni would not have been able to reach without her paralysis. It is an amazing reminder of how suffering exists in the life of a believer so that they may be ministers of hope, healing and grace.Joni spends the remainder of the book speaking to those who suffer and encouraging them on how they can endure and how they can bring glory to God through all of it. She also spends more time looking at some testimonials of how God has used her paralysis to bring glory to Himself and lost people to salvation. This is a greatly encouraging, greatly challenging book and it was a pleasure to read. I praise God for what He has done and continues to do through the life and work of His Son found in the life and work of Joni and her friends.

Reconciling suffering and pain with God's love and sovereignty isn't always easy, but Joni Eareckson Tada does a masterful job. This is a woman who has spent more than 40 years as a quadriplegic and at the time she wrote this book, she was enduring constant excruciating pain. Her prayers for healing have gone unanswered, but she has an incredibly strong faith. Like St. Paul, she has learned to be content in all circumstances. She thanks God for her disability because it has given her such a wonderful platform for ministry. She has helped disabled and hurting people around the globe, and she has brought more people to Christ through her ministries and the inspiration of her life than most evangelists could even dream of. This book is filled with Biblical truth intermingled with personal experience and emotion. No matter what challenges and difficulties you face in life, you will be inspired by Joni's works and her example.

It is hard to believe that this amazing woman who is paralysed from her neck down since her teenage years, has achieved so very much in her life and has been such an inspiration and help to so many people in her life. I have no doubt that she would not have been able to do this were she not a real Christian. Now after over 40 years in a wheel chair and in immense pain she longs for the total healing she will receive when she passes from this life and goes to heaven - and she has no doubt at all that is where she is going. That she has managed to write this inspiring and informative book at this time of her life while suffering immense physical pain, is a miracle in itself. Does she feel sorry for herself? No! Is she asking for sympathy? No! She is a gifted and talented woman. Is this book depressing? No! It is a powerful, encouraging book which I think everyone should read. All of us who are able bodied take so much for granted and still conplain in life. How often are we grateful for all that we have - physically, emotionally and spiritually? How many of us are prepared for the hereafter? As some people say, there is one thing none of us can escape - and that is death! Be prepared for it! If you are feeling depressed and hard-done-by in life - read this book! You will never be the same again. It is so inspiring and I congratulate Joni on the wonderful example she has been during her life and for writing this wonderful book.

God’s love and amazing grace is so profoundly exhibited in Joni through this book, I was blessed reading it. Joni’s love for the Savior is so pure and her honesty with which she shares touches deep into the soul.

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