



LOVE... WHERE YOU LIVE

THE ART OF **NEIGHBORING**

"Try to exclude the possibility of suffering which the order of nature and the existence of free-wills involve, and you find that you have excluded life itself."

C. S. Lewis | The Problem of Pain

In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. ...

1 Peter 1:6-7, 3:14-18

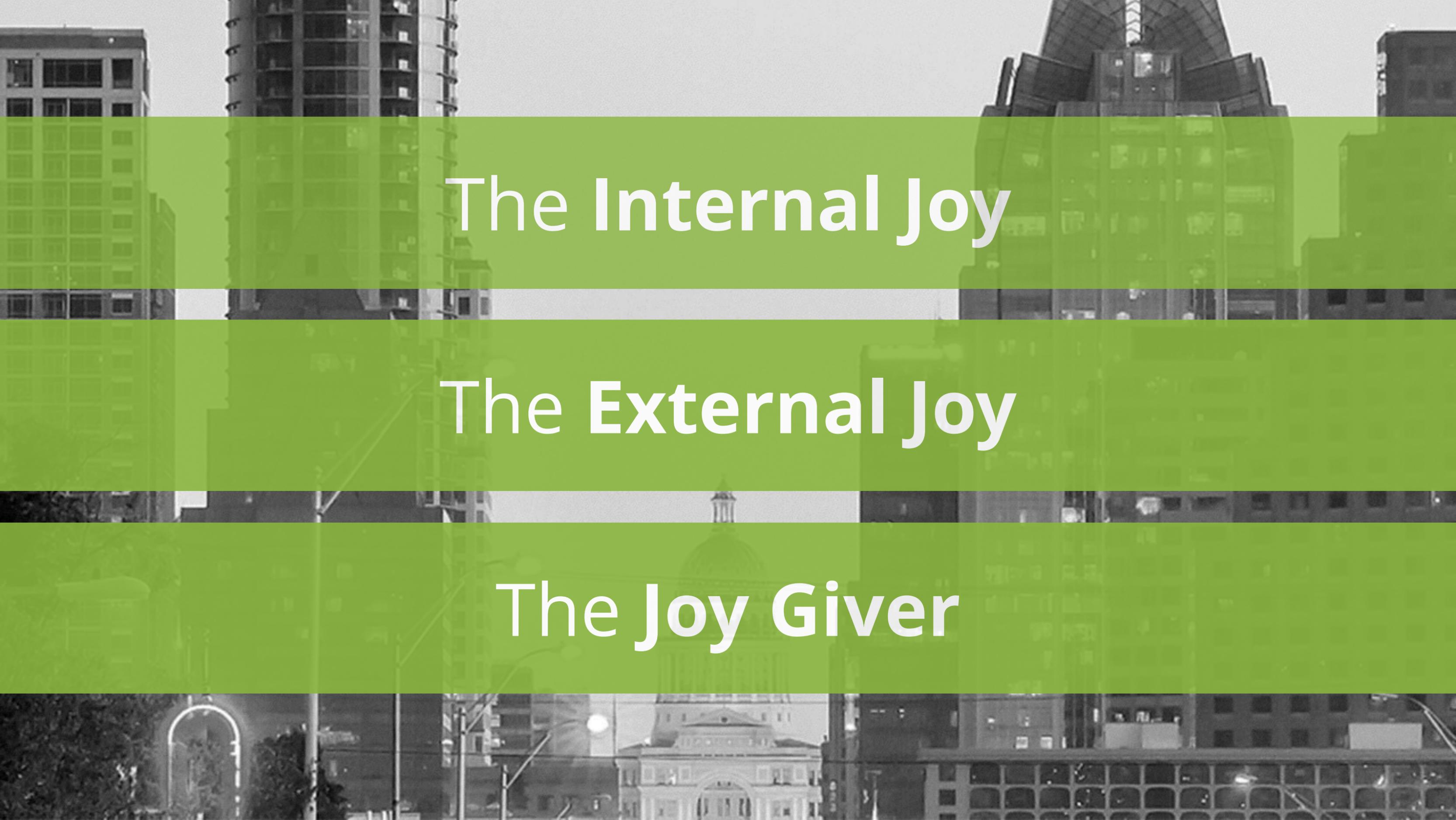
... But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, having a good conscience ...

1 Peter 1:6-7, 3:14-18

... so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame.

For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil. For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit.

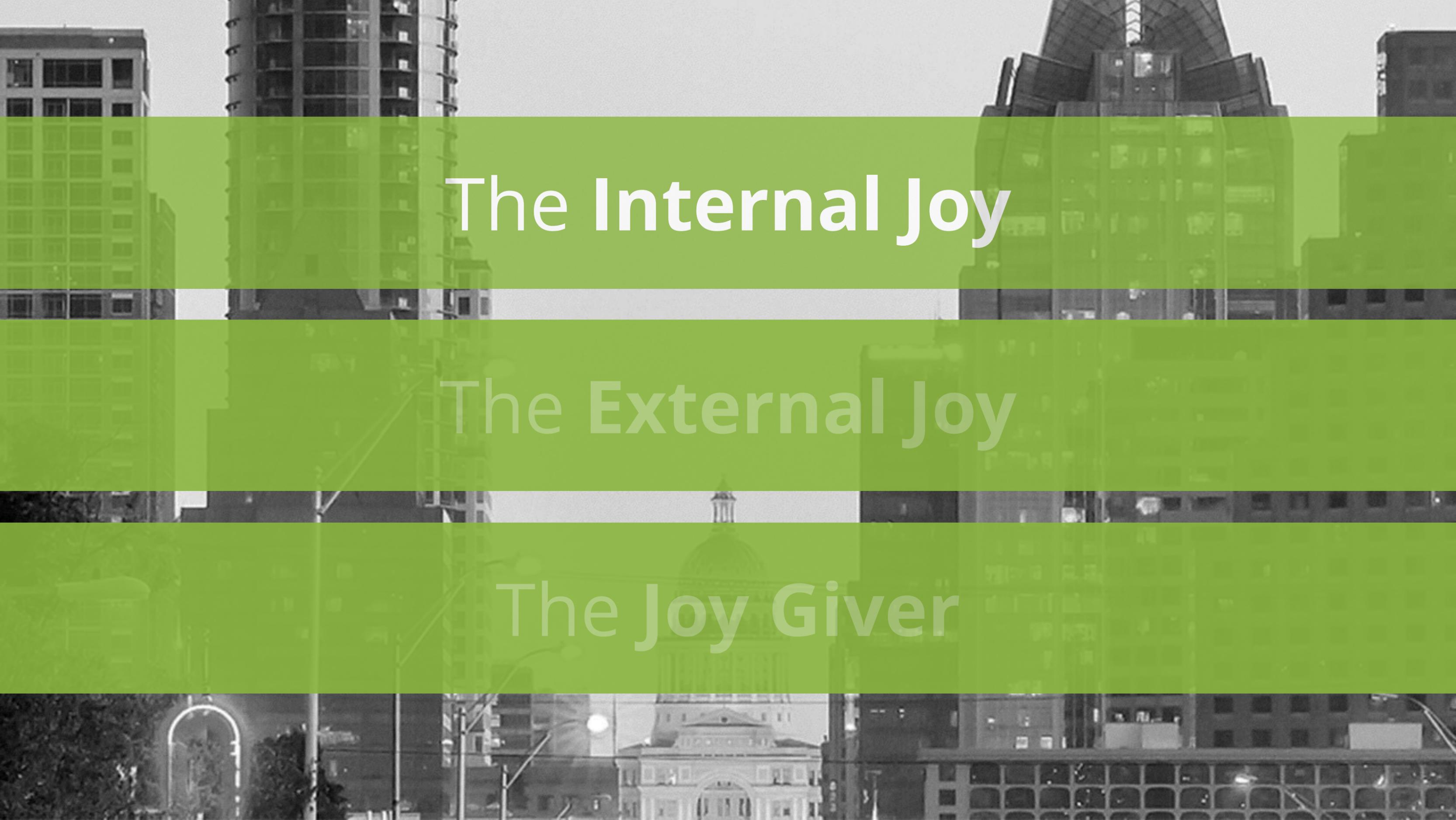
1 Peter 1:6-7, 3:14-18



The Internal Joy

The External Joy

The Joy Giver



The Internal Joy

The External Joy

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1 Peter 1:6-7

"We can ignore pleasure. But pain insists upon being attended to. God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our conscience, but shouts in our pains: it is his megaphone to rouse a deaf world."

C. S. Lewis | The Problem of Pain

And what does pain rouse us to?

→ It **reveals** the idols in our hearts

And what does pain rouse us to?

- It **reveals** the idols in our hearts
- It **reminds** us of our need for rescue

"If I find in myself desires which nothing in this world can satisfy, the only logical explanation is that I was made for another world."

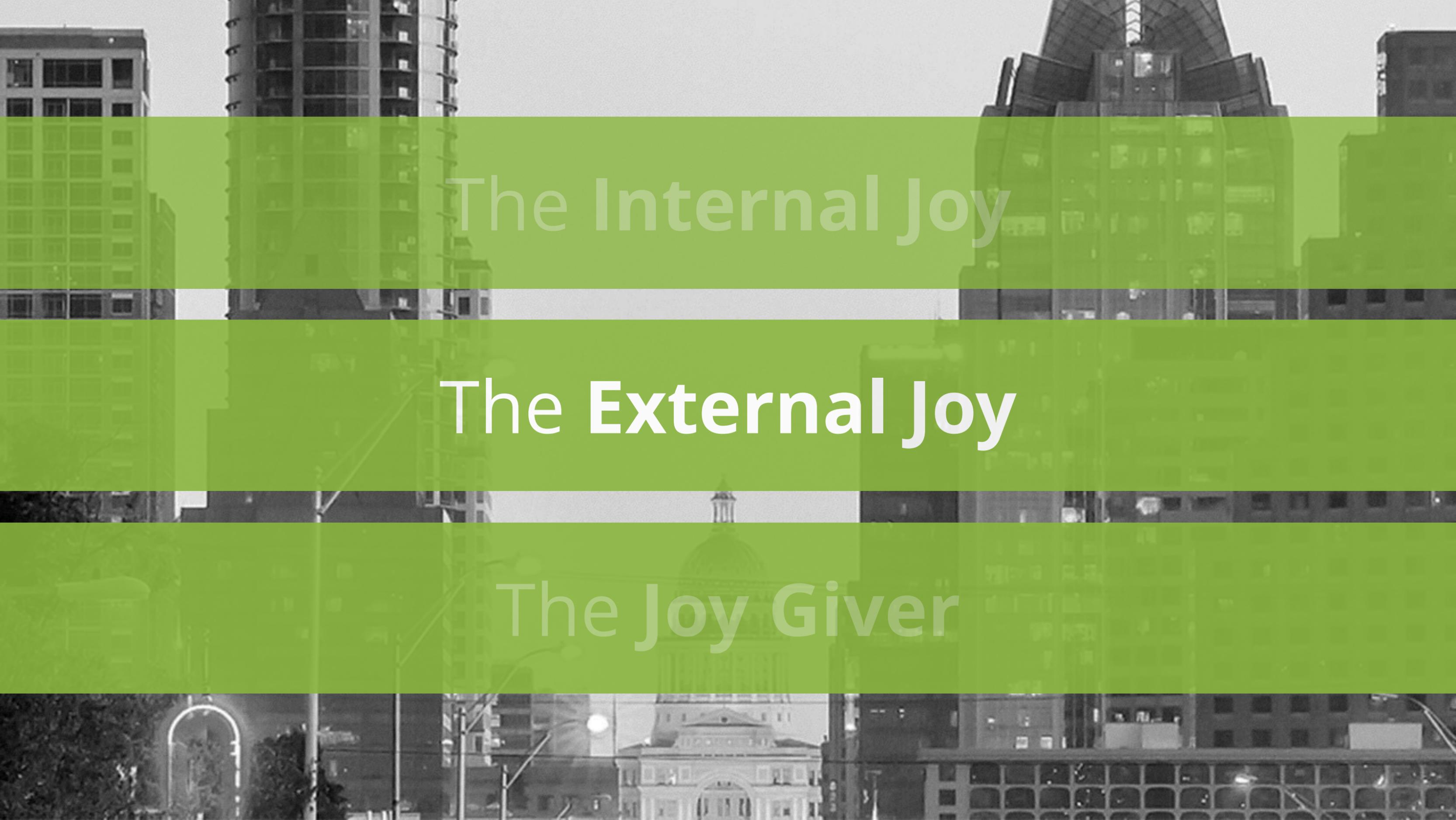
C. S. Lewis | Mere Christianity

And what does pain rouse us to?

- It **reveals** the idols in our hearts
- It **reminds** us of our need for rescue
- It **connects** us to the heart of God

"He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief."

Isaiah 53:3



The Internal Joy

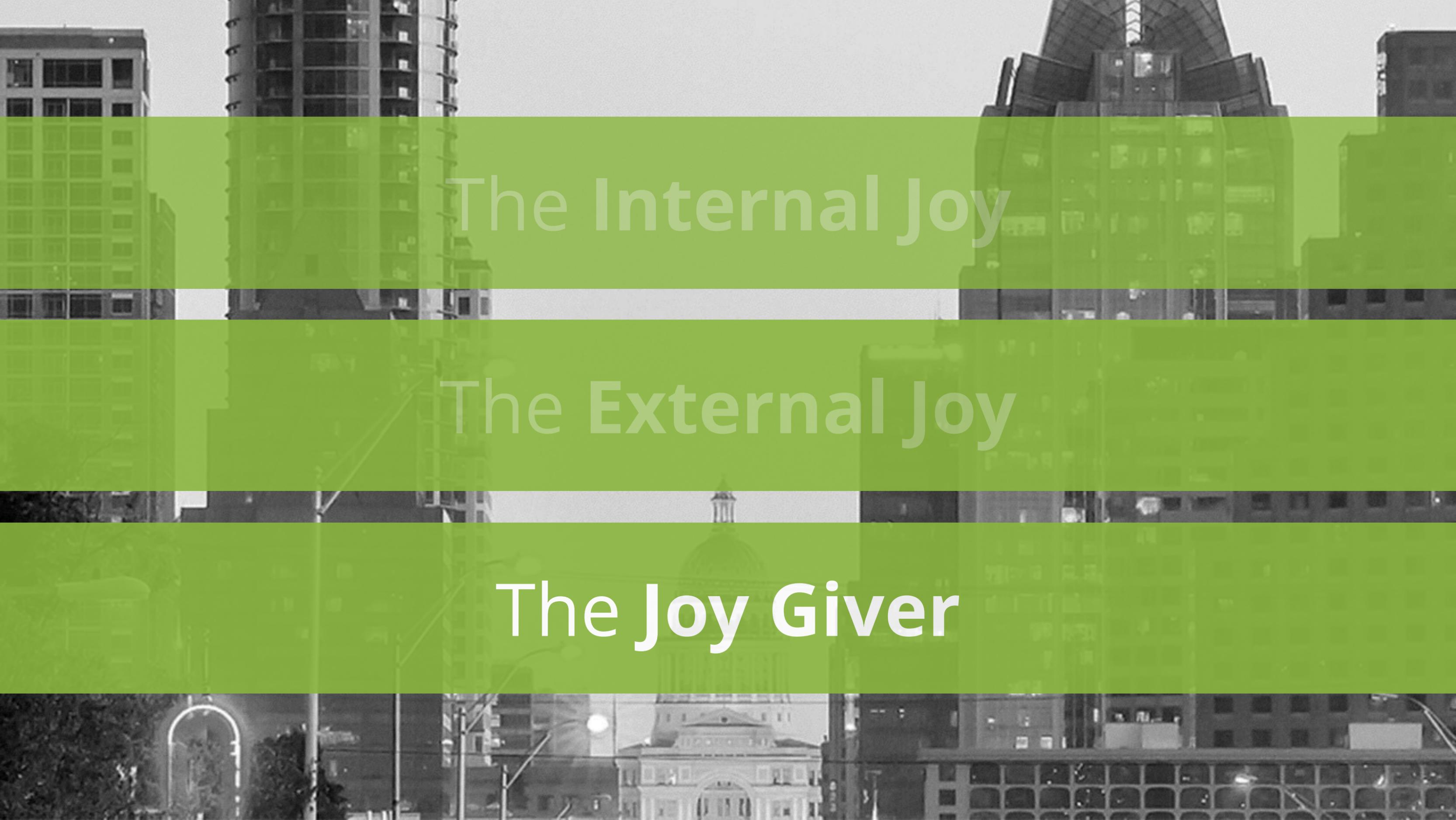
The External Joy

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"But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you."

1 Peter 3:14-15

The reason God does a work **in** us
is because He ultimately wants to
do a work *through* us.



The Internal Joy

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"For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit."

1 Peter 3:18

"While Christianity was able to agree with pagan writers that inordinate attachment to earthly goods can lead to unnecessary pain and grief, it also taught that the answer to this was not to love things less but to love God more than anything else. Only when our greatest love is God, a love that we cannot lose even in death, can we face all things with peace. Grief was not to be eliminated but seasoned and buoyed up with love and hope."

Tim Keller | Walking With God Through Pain and Suffering

"Jesus lost all his glory so that we could be clothed in it. He was shut out so we could get access. He was bound, nailed, so that we could be free. He was cast out so we could approach. And Jesus took away the only kind of suffering that can really destroy you: that is being cast away from God. He took it so that now all suffering that comes into your life will only make you great. A lump of coal under pressure becomes a diamond. And the suffering of a person in Christ only turns you into somebody gorgeous."

Tim Keller | Walking With God Through Pain and Suffering



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