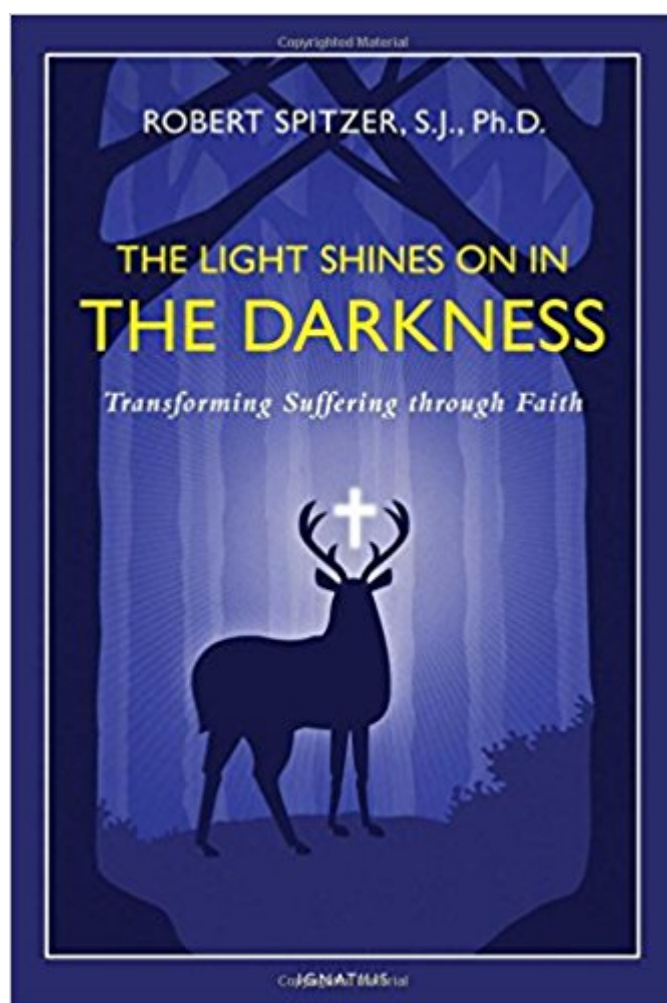


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# The Light Shines On In The Darkness: Transforming Suffering Through Faith (Happiness, Suffering, And Transcendence)



## Synopsis

Why would an all-loving God allow suffering? Are not suffering and love opposed to one another? Does suffering have any meaning or benefit? Is there any objective evidence for God, for a soul that will survive bodily death, for the resurrection of Jesus? Who is God anyway – benevolent and loving, or angry and retributive? Fr. Robert Spitzer, S.J., gives a comprehensive response to these questions and many others, explaining the contemporary evidence for God, the soul, and the resurrection. He discusses how God uses suffering to lead us to compassion for others and eternal life. He also shows how the Holy Spirit guides us through times of suffering toward our salvation, explaining the signs and the interior movements that reveal the Spirit's actions. Fr. Spitzer not only addresses the perplexing questions associated with suffering but teaches us how to suffer well. He points out some of the most common mistakes people make when trying to interpret God's motives for allowing or alleviating suffering. He demonstrates why suffering in combination with love is one of the most powerful motivating agents for personal, cultural, and societal development.

## Book Information

Series: Happiness, Suffering, and Transcendence (Book 4)

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## Customer Reviews

"With heart and intellectual verve, Fr. Spitzer explores why a loving God allows must allow pain. More important, he shows how suffering can teach us compassion, shape our character for the better, bring us closer to God, and in fact can be, as counter-intuitive as it may seem, the ground out of which a greater happiness grows." --Dean Koontz, #1 New York Times Bestselling

Author "Suffering has the power to break or elevate the human spirit.Ã  Lived in the spirit of the Gospel and borne for the sake of others, it's the most redemptive, transfiguring force in creation.Ã  Fr. Spitzer has written a magisterial work on the meaning of suffering, a work remarkable both for its depth and beauty."-- Most Rev. Charles Chaput, O.F.M. Cap., Archbishop of Philadelphia "In this trenchant and searching book, Fr. Spitzer responds to the most powerful objection to the proposition that God exists, namely, the problem of suffering.Ã  And he dares to do what very few are willing to do today:Ã  to articulate how evil and pain are ingredients in the providential design of a loving God." --Bishop Robert Barron, Host, Catholicism film series "Fr. SpitzerÃ  draws not only from his singular intellect, but also from the deep well of his personal experience and suffering. God's strength is made perfect in our weakness. It's edifying to see how true this is even in a man of such stature. This book is ultimately about the personal crisis of suffering everybody goes through, but nobody's prepared for. This book is invaluable." --Scott Hahn, Ph.D., Author, Rome Sweet Home

Robert J. Spitzer, S.J., Ph.D.Ã  is the former President of Gonzaga University. He is the founder and President of the Magis Center, committed to the revitalization of transcendence and virtue through the close connection between science, reason, and faith. He is also the President of the Spitzer Center for Ethical Leadership. He is the author ofÃ  numerous books including Healing the Culture,Ã  Finding True Happiness, Five Pillars of the Spiritual Life, andÃ  Ten Universal Principles.

was bought as a Christmas gift, but we watch the program on cable and certainly will enjoy the book!

Each subsequent book from Spitzer better than the last one. Absolutely brilliant. A great son of the church

Outstanding book - filled with wisdom!

Good.

Exactly as described. arrived promptly

This is the fourth --- and I believe most important --- book in a series by Fr. Robert Spitzer. The first three talked about God, creation and love; they cite facts, studies and scientists to prove that this is all real. But then this book says, in effect: "All that is well and good, but life is hard. If there is a loving God Who created all things for good, why am I suffering? A truly loving God, an all-powerful God, would not let so much suffering exist, and everyone believes there is no suffering worse than theirs. This book is about a key reality of life: There will be suffering; suffering must be allowed, to help bring about a greater good --- one that, sometimes, only God can understand. Fr. Spitzer sets out to prove this statement, and does it well. I can't begin to cite all the studies and facts and, yes, logic that he uses to prove that "The Light Shines on in The Darkness" and after reading this book I think most people will put it on the shelf as a reference manual, kind of like a medical book: When you're in pain, here are ways to ease your suffering. The book's subtitle is: "Transforming Suffering Through Faith" but I assure you, this is not a "Trust me because the Bible says it is so" book. This book teaches the importance of suffering --- to you! --- to make your life better. It teaches you as professor to student, as loving parent to a little child --- to a suffering little child: it will be all right. In your darkest hour, through your flood of tears, IT WILL BE ALL RIGHT. When things are at their darkest hour, I can't think of a more important thing to know, and believe. If you do nothing else, read the 20-page Introduction to this book, even while you sit in the bookstore. You will be stunned by one of its early statements: "Suffering is not opposed to love, --- it leads to it" and Spitzer's preview of how he backs that statement will intrigue you to read on. "Intriguing" is a good description of this book. Perhaps "Loving" is, too. Despite all the pain you feel, this book helps you to KNOW: You are not alone. The Light shines on.

I purchased this book after seeing Fr. Spitzer on EWTN talking about this book. Fr. Spitzer has the rare quality of explaining complex Catholic dogma into a very laity-friendly format.

Fourth in a series but you don't need to read the first three to be blessed by this book. I do plan on buying the other three. Father Spitzer never disappoints, whether written or video.

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