



**Danger Potholes Ahead**  
**Signs Week 5 Sermons Notes**  
**Dr. Craig Finnestad**

**1. Potholes are normal and natural.**

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Do not obsess about what you cannot control. Unless you just have a thing for being miserable.

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You may not have caused the pothole so stop pretending you did.

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*I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world. -John 16:33*

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God is present in our pain.

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*When you go through deep waters,  
 I will be with you.*

*When you walk through the fire of oppression,  
 you will not be burned up;  
 the flames will not consume you. -Isaiah 43:2*

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If your goal is to avoid pain in life then you have the wrong goal for two reasons:

- A) It is impossible to avoid pain so you will fail.
- B) By attempting to avoid pain you are avoiding life.

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**2. Complaining about potholes doesn't fix the situation.**

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*Do everything without complaining and arguing, so that no one can criticize you. -Philippians 2:14-15*

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We need safe people in our lives. People who will listen to us. People who empathize with us and don't tell us how we should feel. People who focus on caring and not curing. People who allow us to be authentic and vulnerable.

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**3. Sometimes you just have to brace and take the hit.**

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Just like the butterfly would never soar without overcoming significant adversity—wisdom is the product of experiencing and conquering the world's wounds.

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But that's not all! We gladly suffer, because we know that suffering helps us to endure. And endurance builds character, which gives us a hope that will never disappoint us. All of this happens because God has given us the Holy Spirit, who fills our hearts with his love. –Romans 3:3-5

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#### **4. Damages can be fixed.**

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*After these words, He called out in a thunderous voice. "Lazarus, come out!" Then, the man who was dead walked out of his tomb bound from head to toe in a burial shroud. –John 11:43-44*

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The world is full of bumps and bruises and hurts and heartaches. The world is also full of people overcoming such things.

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#### **5. Potholes aren't permanent.**

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*But for those who are righteous,  
the way is not steep and rough.  
You are a God who does what is right,  
and you smooth out the path ahead of them. -Isaiah 26:7*

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The world will shout loudly for you to quit. Hope keeps whispering for you to never give up.