

# Airplane Food Illustration

Four months ago Esther and I travelled to Ghana to attend the University graduation of our daughter, Henrika. To this day I can tell you that Esther is still traumatized by the food the airline provided to us on that trip.

When the food was served to us, and Esther tasted it, she turned to me in utter dismay and asked me: *But what is this, Kwasi, what is this?* And she was right; you just could not tell what that nondescript and fairly tasteless food was.

You see, when we board an airplane, we endure the discomfort of cramped legs, and sore necks, and bad airplane food, all for the one primary purpose of getting us to the distant destination the airplane is bringing us to.

This is what Paul is saying in these verses. He is saying that our Christian suffering is not pointless, although it often looks that way; God intends it all to be spiritually transformative for us. Paul is reminding us that the external turmoil that God allows into our lives is often for the internal purpose of bringing us to spiritual maturity in Christ.