**Part 2 – Make it Make Sense**

**If God’s so good, why is there suffering?**

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**Where does suffering come from?**

**Suffering follows evil.**

**Genesis 3:14-19**

**So the Lord God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, “Cursed are you above all livestock and all wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life.**

**And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.”**

**To the woman he said, “I will make your pains in childbearing very severe; with painful labor you will give birth to children. Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you.”**

**To Adam he said, “Because you listened to your wife and ate fruit from the tree about which I commanded you, ‘You must not eat from it,’**

**“Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat food from it all the days of your life. It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field.**

**By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return.”**

**God is not a charm you wear to ward off suffering.**

**John 16:33**

**Here on earth, you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world.**

* **Jesus entered our suffering on the cross.**

**Isaiah 53:3-5**

**He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain. Like one from whom people hide their faces he was despised, and we held him in low esteem.**

**Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted.**

**But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.**

**Psalm 56:8**

**You keep track of all my sorrows. You have collected all my tears in your bottle. You have recorded each one in your book.**

* **What good does God want to bring out of my suffering?**
* **God will take what the enemy meant for evil and turn it into good.**

**Romans 8:28**

**And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.**

**What should we do while we wait for God to turn this to good?**

* **Worship God — in suffering and in joy.**

**Job 1:20-22**

**Job stood up and tore his robe in grief. Then he shaved his head and fell to the ground to worship.**

**He said, “I came naked from my mother’s womb, and I will be naked when I leave.**

**The Lord gave me what I had, and the Lord has taken it away. Praise the name of the Lord!” In all of this, Job did not sin by blaming God.**

* **Let suffering open your heart and eyes to see God more clearly.**

**Job 42:5-6**

**I had only heard about you before, but now I have seen you with my own eyes. I take back everything I said, and I sit in dust and ashes to show my repentance.**

* **Don’t let suffering crush you — let God use it to make you stronger.**

**Romans 5:2-5**

**Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.**

**Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.**

* **Remember: suffering in this world is temporary for the Christian.**

**2 Corinthians 4:16-18**

**Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day.**

**For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.**

**So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.**

**Revelation 21:4**

 **“He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death’ or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”**

* **Use your experience to comfort others.**

**2 Corinthians 1:3-4**

**Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort…**

**Who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God.**