

PAIN

God can do miracles and stop our pain, sometimes he chooses not to. In fact in really bad situations he usually seems silent.

We don't do well with pain. We don't like it we don't want it. We often have a poor view of pain.

It has been this way for a long time!

Horatio Spafford was kicked out of his Chicago church because they saw his pain as a result of his sin.

It is well!

"I know god wouldn't give me anything I can't handle. I just wish he wouldn't trust me so much."

Mother Theresa

1 Corinthians 10:13

“With profound potential for good, suffering can also be a destroyer. Suffering can pull families together, uniting them through hardship, or it can rip them apart in selfishness and bitterness ... It all depends on us. On how we respond.”

Joni Erickson Tada

*“It is by those that have suffered
the world has been advanced.”*

- Leo Tolstoy

King, Gandhi, Tutu, Mandella...

Hitler, Lenin, Stalin....

We live in a fallen, broken world

Things are not the way they are
supposed to be.

Stuff happens that is plain ugly!

Removing the expectation that life will be fair is a vital stepping stone.

Part of the great joy of existence comes in facing the unknown and overcoming it with gods help. The bible holds nothing back it's heroes struggle, it's stories horrifying us at times. Abrahams lies, David's unfaithfulness, Jezebels dogs heroes treachery and in the midst if it all the One who will never forsake us.

- Phil Calaway

“There may be advantages to knowing at an early age that life may not turned out as planned life will be an assortment of the mundane and the adventurous the sublime and ridiculous. That people we trust will disappoint us. Friendships will fail. Storms will come. Such a realization may seem morose at first but it is essential to bringing joy to life.

The ideal life is not the problem -free philosophy that Timon and Pumba sang about in the lion king. Perhaps It would be nice. But it's hard to discover one person in recorded history for whom life was a breeze.”

– Phil Calaway

God is sovereign

You intended to harm me, but
God intended it for good to
accomplish what is now being
done, the saving of many lives.

Genesis 50:20

God centered not problem or
doubts centered.

“Joseph believed his beliefs and doubted his doubts, instead of doubting his beliefs and believing his doubts. Believing your beliefs enables you to thrive in adversity; doubting your beliefs on the other hand will bury you. And because of his conviction that God was in control, Joseph didn’t quit ...on life or God.” – Rob Bugh

At this, Job got up and tore his robe and shaved his head. Then he fell to the ground in worship 21 and said: “Naked I came from my mother’s womb, and naked I will depart.

The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away; may the name of the LORD be praised.” 22 In all this, Job did not sin by charging God with wrongdoing. Job 1

God is sovereign using both good and bad in my life to accomplish his purposes.

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

Romans 8:28

God allows what he hates to accomplish what he loves.

“Therefore, I hold God ultimately responsible for my grief because He is sovereign and has permitted cancer to prove fatal. Rather than responding to this truth with bitterness, I worship Him. By faith I trust Him in my pain and believe he is infinitely good in permitting this to happen to me.”

- James Means after his wife died

"Papa, Father, you can—can't you?—get me out of this. Take this cup away from me. But please, not what I want—what do you want?"

Mark 14:36

We are not home, the best is yet to come

**1 “Do not let your hearts be troubled.
You believe in God; believe also in me.
2 My Father’s house has many rooms; if
that were not so, would I have told you
that I am going there to prepare a place
for you? 3 And if I go and prepare a
place for you, I will come back and take
you to be with me that you also may be
where I am. 4 You know the way to the
place where I am going.” John 14**

“If we ask the question ‘Why does God allow evil and suffering to continue?’ and we look at the cross of Jesus, we still do not know what the answer is.

However, we now know what the answer isn't. It can't be that he doesn't love us. It can't be that he is indifferent or detached from our condition.”

- Tim Keller

Valjean or Javert



Jesus did not come to
explain away suffering or
remove it. He came to fill it
with His presence.

Paul Claudel

