

HOW EASTER ANSWERS THE ULTIMATE QUESTION

EASTER 2025

April 20, 2025

Pastor Brian

“...Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world.” (John 16:33, NLT)

“Don’t blame God...God cannot be tempted by evil, and he doesn’t use evil to tempt others.” (James 1:13–14, CEV)

“Then God looked over all he had made, and he saw that it was very good!” (Genesis 1:31a, NLT)

“All of us have sinned and fallen short of God’s glory.” (Romans 3:23, CEV)

“Against its will, all creation was subjected to God’s curse.” (Romans 8:20a, NLT)

WHY GOD ALLOWS PAIN

1. God uses pain to CORRECT us.

“The Lord corrects the people he loves and disciplines those he calls his own...Don’t all parents correct their children? God corrects all of his children, and if he doesn’t correct you, then you don’t really belong to him.” (Hebrews 12:6–8, CEV)

2. God uses pain to PERFECT us.

“We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they are good for us—they help us learn to be patient. And patience develops strength of character in us and helps us trust God more each time we use it until finally our hope and faith are strong and steady.” (Romans 5:3–4, The Living Bible)

3. God uses pain to PROTECT us.

“My suffering was good for me, for it taught me to pay attention to your decrees.” (Psalm 119:71, NLT)

4. God uses pain to CONNECT us.

“Sometimes it takes a painful experience to make us change our ways.” (Proverbs 20:30, GNB)

“For the kind of sorrow God wants us to experience leads us away from sin and results in salvation. There’s no regret for that kind of sorrow...” (2 Corinthians 7:10, NLT)

WHAT TO DO WITH MY PAIN

1. Transfer it: Turn the WHY into WHO.

“Let him have all your worries and cares, for he is always thinking about you and watching everything that concerns you.” (1 Peter 5:7, The Living Bible)

“The Lord is near to those who are discouraged; he saves those who have lost all hope.” (Psalm 34:18, GNB)

2. Transform it: Turn the WHY into WHAT.

“You intended to harm me, but God intended it all for good. He brought me to this position so I could save the lives of many people.” (Genesis 50:20, NLT)

“We know that all things work together for the good of those who love God—those whom he has called according to his plan.” (Romans 8:28, GW)

“God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.” (2 Corinthians 5:21, NIV)

3. Transcend it: turn the WHY into WHEN.

“Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the old heaven and the old earth had disappeared...I heard a loud shout from the throne, saying, “Look, God’s home is now among his people! He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them. He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever.”” (Revelation 21:1–4, NLT)

“He isn’t really being slow about his promised return, even though it sometimes seems that way. But he is waiting, for the good reason that he is not willing that any should perish, and he is giving more time for sinners to repent.” (2 Peter 3:9, The Living Bible)

ACTION STEP

Leave your pain at the cross
and embrace the hope of Easter!
Text the word ‘ACCEPTED’ to 94000!