

the Christian atheist

The Christian Atheist

You say you believe in God. Do you really? Do you live your life as if God is in the room, or do you assume He's not paying attention? You call yourself a Christian. Are you who you say you are?

In this multiple week series, we will challenge each other to confront hypocrisy, challenge ourselves, and live a life that brings glory to Christ.

The Christian Atheist – Week 5

Believing in God, But Not Thinking He's Fair

Key Thought:

One of the greatest struggles in the Christian life is reconciling the goodness of God with the pain of life.

The Question Many of Us Ask:

"God, if You are good... then why is this happening to me?"

Why did I lose the job?

Why did the marriage fall apart?

Why did the diagnosis come?

Why did the child rebel?

Why did the prayer go unanswered?

Why do evil people prosper while faithful people suffer?

The Story of Job

Job was not rebellious.

Job was not wicked.

Job was righteous before God.

Job 1:1 (NLT)

"There once was a man named Job who lived in the land of Uz. He was blameless—a man of complete integrity. He feared God and stayed away from evil."

Yet Job lost:

- His wealth
- His servants
- His children
- His health

Big Truth:

There Is Purpose in Our Pain

1. Pain Does Not Mean God Has Abandoned You

Job 1:8 (NLT)

"Have you noticed my servant Job?"

Before Job ever suffered, God already knew his name.

Truth:

Your suffering is not evidence of God's absence.
Sometimes it is evidence that Heaven is aware of you.

We Often Assume:

- If life is good, God loves me.
- If life is painful, God is against me.

But Scripture teaches otherwise.

Examples of Faithful People Who Suffered:

- Joseph was betrayed.
- David was hunted.
- Paul was imprisoned.
- Jesus Christ was crucified.

Psalm 34:18 (NLT)

"The Lord is close to the brokenhearted..."

Hebrews 13:5 (NKJV)

"I will never leave you nor forsake you."

Remember:

Just because you do not understand what God is doing does not mean God is doing nothing.

Isaiah 55:8–9 (NLT)

2. God Uses Pain to Produce What Comfort Never Could

Pain changes us.

Job 42:5 (NLT)

"I had only heard about you before, but now I have seen you with my own eyes."

Before pain, Job knew about God.

After pain, Job knew God personally.

Pain Produces:

- Perseverance
- Character
- Hope

Romans 5:3–5 (NLT)

Sometimes We Pray:

"God, get me out."

Sometimes God Says:

"I'm trying to grow you through."

James 1:2–4 (NLT)

Trials Often Reveal:

- Pride
- Self-reliance
- Bitterness
- Shallow faith

Just as gold is refined by fire, God refines us through trials.

2 Corinthians 4:17 (NLT)

"Our present troubles... produce for us a glory that vastly outweighs them all."

3. God's Purpose Is Greater Than Our Understanding

Sometimes God does not explain Himself.

Job 38:4 (NLT)

"Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth?"

Truth:

Sometimes we demand explanations from God when what we really need is trust in God.

Mature Faith Says:

Even when I don't understand...

- I will still worship.
- I will still pray.
- I will still believe.
- I will still trust.

Job 13:15 (NKJV)

"Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him."

Romans 8:28 (NLT)

"God causes everything to work together for the good..."

Not all things are good...
But God can work through all things for good.

Jesus Is Our Ultimate Example

No event looked more unfair than the cross.

Jesus Christ was:

- Innocent
- Holy
- Sinless

Yet through His suffering, God brought salvation.

The Cross Teaches Us:

What looks like defeat may actually be divine purpose.

Job's Story Was Not Over

Job 42:12–17 (NLT)

God restored Job.

Truth:

Pain is a chapter.
It is not the whole story.

Our Response

1. Bring Your Honest Pain to God

Psalm 62:8 (NLT)

"Pour out your heart to Him..."

God can handle your questions.

God can handle your tears.

2. Refuse Bitterness

Hebrews 12:15 (NKJV)

Pain can either:

- Push you toward God
 - Harden your heart against God
-

3. Keep Trusting Even When You Don't Understand

Faith is not having all the answers.

Faith is trusting the character of God when life makes no sense.

Our Hope

Revelation 21:3–4 (NLT)

One day:

- Every tear
- Every heartbreak
- Every wound
- Every unanswered prayer

Will make sense when we stand face to face with Jesus Christ.

Final Truth:

Your pain is not pointless.

God sees you.

God is with you.

God is working even now.

Your story is not over.

Salvation / Response Moment

Maybe you've believed in God... but struggled to trust Him.

Today your prayer may simply be:

“God, I don't understand... but I trust You.”