

2.4.2024

“Hey God I’ve Got A Question”

If God is Good, Why is There Suffering in the World?

I. God is never the author of evil.

- The **GOOD** News: God’s creations are perfect and good.

“God saw all that He had made, and it was very good...” Genesis 1:31 (NIV)

- The **BAD** News: Sin corrupts everything it touches.

“For the wages of sin is **death**, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Romans 6:23 (NIV)

- The **GREAT** News: Jesus came to cover the debt that our sins committed.

“Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.’ This saying is true, and it can be trusted...” 1 Timothy 1:15 (CEV)

II. Is there purpose in our pain?

That all depends on **YOU!**

Suffering isn’t good.

But good can come from our pain.

- **ALLOW** God to use your pain to draw you toward Him.

“For God sometimes uses sorrow in our lives to help us turn away from sin and seek eternal life...”
2 Corinthians 7:10 (LB)

- **USE** pain to sharpen our character.

“... We also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character, and character, hope.” Romans 5:3 (NIV)

I.

- **RECEIVE** God's discipline and live in holiness.

"...God disciplines us for our good, in order that we may share in His holiness. No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it." Hebrews 12:10-11 (NIV)

- **TURN** your pain into a ministry to others.

"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 (NIV)

III. In your pain, remember...

- **All earthly pain is temporary.**

"For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all." 2 Corinthians 4:17 (NIV)

- **God sees you, loves you and hurts when you hurt.**

"The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit." Psalm 34:18 (NIV)

- **Peace is found in Jesus.**

[Jesus] "I have told you all this so that you will have peace of heart and mind. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows; but cheer up, for I have overcome the world." John 16:33 (TLB)

Keep the conversation going...

1. How does knowing that *"the Lord is close to the brokenhearted"* helped you in times of pain or suffering?
2. Describe a situation when pain drew you closer to Jesus, and perhaps, helped shape you to be a bit more like Him.
3. Read 2 Corinthians 1:3-4. Describe a situation where...
 - a. Someone comforted you because they had experienced similar pain.
 - b. You were able to comfort someone else who was suffering because you could identify with their pain