

Suffering, Loss & Our Lasting Hope

When God Responds Differently



“O God, listen to my cry! Hear my prayer! From the ends of the earth, I cry to you for help when my heart is overwhelmed. Lead me to the towering rock of safety, for you are my safe refuge”



“a fortress where my enemies cannot reach me. Let me live forever in your sanctuary, safe beneath the shelter of your wings!”

Psalms 61:1-4





What do we do, when God
responds *differently*?



Differently than what?

Than I WANTED?

Than I DESERVE?

Than I PRAYED for?

Than how a GOOD GOD would have responded?



Did I *deserve* this?



“It was not because of his sins or his parents’ sins’, Jesus answered, “This happened so the power of God could be seen in Him.”

John 9:3



Was my faith the problem?



“Three different times I begged the Lord to take it away. Each time he said, ‘My grace is all you need. My power works best in weakness’.”

2 Corinthians 12:8-9



Does prayer *even* work?



Why?



“My grace is all you need.”

2 Corinthians 12:8-9





How do I define the
goodness of God?





“In this world you *will* have trouble...”



“In this world you *will* have trouble...”

“as *sheep* amongst wolves”



“In this world you *will* have trouble...”

“as *sheep* amongst wolves”

“handed over to be *persecuted*”



“In this world you *will* have trouble...”

“as *sheep* amongst wolves”

“handed over to be *persecuted*”

“pick up your *cross* and follow me”



He will be *with* us.





“*apart* from your Father”





“Do not fear for *I am with you*, do not anxiously look about you, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, surely I will help you, surely I will uphold you with my righteous right hand”

Isaiah 41:10



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

Psalms 56:8



“I *have overcome* this world.”





God uses the deep trials of life to transform our faith and take us deeper into His love and sufficiency.



The Faith of **Propriety**

“Propriety is conforming to acceptable or moral standards.”



The Faith of **Desperation**

“Though he slay me, I will hope in Him.”

Job 13:15



The Faith of **Sufficiency**

“I’ve heard about you, but now *I’ve seen you.*”

Job 42:5



“...This is why we need to live in clear view of the cross. When we look at what Christ did for us on the cross and keep that at the center of our vision, there are not many things that will bother us, or even matter at all. When we realize that Christ went willingly to the cross on our behalf, trusting in the greatness of his Father, it casts a transformative light on our own sufferings. That’s what Job saw. Job beheld the greatness of God....”

– Dallas Willard, *A Life Without Lack*

