

### 3 Questions Everyone has about God: Why does God allow suffering?

Pastor Josh Weidmann – Sr. Pastor, Grace Chapel

Various scriptures

**Summary:** We all struggle to understand how a good God can allow bad things to happen. Is He standing by watching? Does He not have the power to step in? Why/how is it loving to let our pain go on? In this message we will tackle this hard question and see the application to help us through our pain and doubts.

**Prayer:** Take time to pray. Take time to THANK GOD for the trials and suffering that you have in your life right now. Name the trials and the sufferings by name and THANK GOD for each one. Ask God for His help in seeing you through and persevering through these trials and each suffering. Yes, you heard me....THANK GOD for them. Ask God “what do you want me to learn from these trials and sufferings!”

1. The cross of Jesus Christ is the ultimate answer to the world’s problem with suffering.
  - How does the cross of Jesus Christ provide the solution/the promise for all suffering? What scriptures can you use to back that statement up? If the cross provides the solution/promise to end all suffering, how come we still have so much suffering going on right now? What role does your faith in Jesus Christ play in this?
  - Read *2 Corinthians 11: 23-28*. What can we learn in these 5 verses about Paul, suffering, and His faith in Jesus Christ? What 2-4 lessons can you apply, from these verses, to your life?
2. Read *Romans 8:18*. We all struggle to try and explain the presence of evil and suffering in this world. How does this passage help us understand why stuff like that exists? Have you been stuck in a season of hardship and not really know what to pray for? How does God help you in that season? Look at *Romans 8:26-27*.
  - Take a few minutes to compare some sufferings of the present time to some glory that is yet to be revealed. How is hope in Christ different from other things we hope in?
3. Read *John 11:1-43*. Let’s focus on *John 11:25-26*.
  - What promise(s) do we see in verse 25-25? How does Jesus “reframe” Martha’s thinking? In what way/what areas do you need to reframe your thinking in regards to your life right now.
4. Read *2 Corinthians 4:17-18*. What steps do you take when you feel overwhelmed by all of life’s struggles? Explain how keeping an eternal perspective can help. How can you use hardships and trials you have experienced to be an encouragement to someone else? (Christ-follower and/or non Christ-follower)

#### **NEXT STEPS:**

- Ask God what it is that He wants you to learn in a time of trials and suffering? Pray the words of *Ephesians 3:14-19* over the trials and sufferings of your own life and/or those you know. Pray for wisdom and seek practical ways that you can take to renew your own walk with the Lord at this time.
- Read *Psalms 119* and make a list of all the ways the Word of God encouraged David in the midst of his suffering. Can you apply any of those to your life?