



ASKING FOR A FRIEND

Tough Questions, Honest Answers

WHAT'S GOD'S PURPOSE IN MY PAIN?

March 15 & 16, 2024

Three Ways We Question God:

- **Job lost everything and questioned God's _____.**

Job 10:8-9 (NLT)

"You formed me with your hands; you made me, yet now you completely destroy me. Remember that you made me from dust—will you turn me back to dust so soon?"

- **David was a fugitive and questioned God's _____.**

Psalms 13:1-2 (NLT)

O Lord, how long will you forget me? Forever? How long will you look the other way? How long must I struggle with anguish in my soul, with sorrow in my heart every day? How long will my enemy have the upper hand?

- **Asaph was a Worship Pastor and questioned God's _____.**

Psalms 73:1-12 (NLT)

Truly God is good to Israel, to those whose hearts are pure. But as for me, I almost lost my footing. My feet were slipping, and I was almost gone. For I envied the proud when I saw them prosper despite their wickedness. They seem to live such painless lives; their bodies are so healthy and strong. They don't have troubles like other people; they're not plagued with problems like everyone else. They wear pride like a jeweled necklace and clothe themselves with cruelty. These fat cats have everything their hearts could ever wish for! They scoff and speak only evil; in their pride they seek to crush others. They boast against the very heavens, and their words strut throughout the earth. And so the people are dismayed and confused, drinking in all their words. "What does God know?" they ask. "Does the Most High even know what's happening?" Look at these wicked people—enjoying a life of ease while their riches multiply.

Where Does Pain and Suffering Come From?

- **Our fallen _____.**

Romans 5:12 (NLT)

When Adam sinned, sin entered the world. Adam's sin brought death, so death spread to everyone, for everyone sinned.

- **Other broken _____.**

Romans 3:23 (NLT)

For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard.

- **Our enemy _____.**

1 Peter 5:8 (NLT)

Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour.

- **Our own sinful _____.**

1 Peter 4:15-16 (NLT)

If you suffer, however, it must not be for murder, stealing, making trouble, or prying into other people's affairs. But it is no shame to suffer for being a Christian. Praise God for the privilege of being called by his name!

GOD'S PURPOSE FOR MY PAIN IS TO:

1

_____ my thinking from temporary to eternal.

2 Corinthians 4:17-18 (NLT)

For our present troubles are small and won't last very long. Yet they produce for us a glory that vastly outweighs them and will last forever! So we don't look at the troubles we can see now; rather, we fix our gaze on things that cannot be seen. For the things we see now will soon be gone, but the things we cannot see will last forever.

ASAPH'S SHIFT:

Psalms 73:13-20 (NLT)

Did I keep my heart pure for nothing? Did I keep myself innocent for no reason? I get nothing but trouble all day long; every morning brings me pain. If I had really spoken this way to others, I would have been a traitor to your people. So I tried to understand why the wicked prosper. But what a difficult task it is! Then I went into your sanctuary, O God, and I finally understood the destiny of the wicked. Truly, you put them on a slippery path and send them sliding over the cliff to destruction. In an instant they are destroyed, completely swept away by terrors. When you arise, O Lord, you will laugh at their silly ideas as a person laughs at dreams in the morning.

2**Help me _____ to God's strength and not my own.****Psalm 46:1 (NLT)**

God is our refuge and strength, always ready to help in times of trouble.

ASAPH'S STRENGTH:**Psalm 73:21-23 (NLT)**

Then I realized that my heart was bitter, and I was all torn up inside. I was so foolish and ignorant—I must have seemed like a senseless animal to you. Yet I still belong to you; you hold my right hand.

3**Cause me to _____ over fear.****Psalm 56:3-4 (NLT)**

But when I am afraid, I will put my trust in you. Praise God for what he has promised. I trust in God, so why should I be afraid? What can mere mortals do to me?

ASAPH'S FAITH:**Psalm 73:24-26 (NLT)**

You guide me with your counsel, leading me to a glorious destiny. Whom have I in heaven but you? I desire you more than anything on earth. My health may fail, and my spirit may grow weak, but God remains the strength of my heart; he is mine forever.

4**_____ those who are suffering the way I have suffered.****2 Corinthians 1:3-4 (TPT)**

All praises belong to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. For he is the Father of tender mercy and the God of endless comfort. He always comes alongside us to comfort us in every suffering so that we can come alongside those who are in any painful trial. We can bring them this same comfort that God has poured out upon us.

ASAPH'S COMFORT:**Psalm 73:27-28a (NLT)**

Those who desert him will perish, for you destroy those who abandon you. But as for me, how good it is to be near God!

5**_____ me hope and peace that Jesus has faced every trial and sorrow I will face.****John 16:33 (NLT)**

"I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world."

Hebrews 4:14-16 (TPT)

So then, we must cling in faith to all we know to be true. For we have a magnificent King-Priest, Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who rose into the heavenly realm for us, and now sympathizes with us in our frailty. He understands humanity, for as a man, our magnificent King-Priest was tempted in every way just as we are, and conquered sin.

ASAPH'S SAVIOR:

Psalm 73:28b (NLT)

I have made the Sovereign Lord my shelter, and I will tell everyone about the wonderful things you do.

Bad things don't happen to _____ because no one is good except Jesus.

Romans 3:10-12 (NLT)

As the Scriptures say, "No one is righteous—not even one. No one is truly wise; no one is seeking God. All have turned away; all have become useless. No one does good, not a single one."

Luke 18:19 (NLT)

"Why do you call me good?" Jesus asked him. "Only God is truly good."



ASKING FOR A FRIEND

Tough Questions, Honest Answers

WHAT'S GOD'S PURPOSE IN MY PAIN?

March 15 & 16, 2024

Three Ways We Question God:

- **Job lost everything and questioned God's intentions.**

Job 10:8-9 (NLT)

"You formed me with your hands; you made me, yet now you completely destroy me. Remember that you made me from dust—will you turn me back to dust so soon?"

- **David was a fugitive and questioned God's justice.**

Psalms 13:1-2 (NLT)

O Lord, how long will you forget me? Forever? How long will you look the other way? How long must I struggle with anguish in my soul, with sorrow in my heart every day? How long will my enemy have the upper hand?

- **Asaph was a Worship Pastor and questioned God's sovereignty.**

Psalms 73:1-12 (NLT)

Truly God is good to Israel, to those whose hearts are pure. But as for me, I almost lost my footing. My feet were slipping, and I was almost gone. For I envied the proud when I saw them prosper despite their wickedness. They seem to live such painless lives; their bodies are so healthy and strong. They don't have troubles like other people; they're not plagued with problems like everyone else. They wear pride like a jeweled necklace and clothe themselves with cruelty. These fat cats have everything their hearts could ever wish for! They scoff and speak only evil; in their pride they seek to crush others. They boast against the very heavens, and their words strut throughout the earth. And so the people are dismayed and confused, drinking in all their words. "What does God know?" they ask. "Does the Most High even know what's happening?" Look at these wicked people—enjoying a life of ease while their riches multiply.

Where Does Pain and Suffering Come From?

- **Our fallen world.**

Romans 5:12 (NLT)

When Adam sinned, sin entered the world. Adam's sin brought death, so death spread to everyone, for everyone sinned.

- **Other broken people.**

Romans 3:23 (NLT)

For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard.

- **Our enemy Satan.**

1 Peter 5:8 (NLT)

Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour.

- **Our own sinful choices.**

1 Peter 4:15-16 (NLT)

If you suffer, however, it must not be for murder, stealing, making trouble, or prying into other people's affairs. But it is no shame to suffer for being a Christian. Praise God for the privilege of being called by his name!

GOD'S PURPOSE FOR MY PAIN IS TO:

1

Shift my thinking from temporary to eternal.

2 Corinthians 4:17-18 (NLT)

For our present troubles are small and won't last very long. Yet they produce for us a glory that vastly outweighs them and will last forever! So we don't look at the troubles we can see now; rather, we fix our gaze on things that cannot be seen. For the things we see now will soon be gone, but the things we cannot see will last forever.

ASAPH'S SHIFT:

Psalm 73:13-20 (NLT)

Did I keep my heart pure for nothing? Did I keep myself innocent for no reason? I get nothing but trouble all day long; every morning brings me pain. If I had really spoken this way to others, I would have been a traitor to your people. So I tried to understand why the wicked prosper. But what a difficult task it is! Then I went into your sanctuary, O God, and I finally understood the destiny of the wicked. Truly, you put them on a slippery path and send them sliding over the cliff to destruction. In an instant they are destroyed, completely swept away by terrors. When you arise, O Lord, you will laugh at their silly ideas as a person laughs at dreams in the morning.

2

Help me hold tight to God's strength and not my own.

Psalm 46:1 (NLT)

God is our refuge and strength, always ready to help in times of trouble.

ASAPH'S STRENGTH:

Psalm 73:21-23 (NLT)

Then I realized that my heart was bitter, and I was all torn up inside. I was so foolish and ignorant—I must have seemed like a senseless animal to you. Yet I still belong to you; you hold my right hand.

3

Cause me to choose faith over fear.

Psalm 56:3-4 (NLT)

But when I am afraid, I will put my trust in you. Praise God for what he has promised. I trust in God, so why should I be afraid? What can mere mortals do to me?

ASAPH'S FAITH:

Psalm 73:24-26 (NLT)

You guide me with your counsel, leading me to a glorious destiny. Whom have I in heaven but you? I desire you more than anything on earth. My health may fail, and my spirit may grow weak, but God remains the strength of my heart; he is mine forever.

4

Comfort those who are suffering the way I have suffered.

2 Corinthians 1:3-4 (TPT)

All praises belong to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. For he is the Father of tender mercy and the God of endless comfort. He always comes alongside us to comfort us in every suffering so that we can come alongside those who are in any painful trial. We can bring them this same comfort that God has poured out upon us.

ASAPH'S COMFORT:

Psalm 73:27-28a (NLT)

Those who desert him will perish, for you destroy those who abandon you. But as for me, how good it is to be near God!

5

Give me hope and peace that Jesus has faced every trial and sorrow I will face.

John 16:33 (NLT)

"I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world."

Hebrews 4:14-16 (TPT)

So then, we must cling in faith to all we know to be true. For we have a magnificent King-Priest, Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who rose into the heavenly realm for us, and now sympathizes with us in our frailty. He understands humanity, for as a man, our magnificent King-Priest was tempted in every way just as we are, and conquered sin.

ASAPH'S SAVIOR:**Psalm 73:28b (NLT)**

I have made the Sovereign Lord my shelter, and I will tell everyone about the wonderful things you do.

Bad things don't happen to good people because no one is good except Jesus.

Romans 3:10-12 (NLT)

As the Scriptures say, "No one is righteous—not even one. No one is truly wise; no one is seeking God. All have turned away; all have become useless. No one does good, not a single one."

Luke 18:19 (NLT)

"Why do you call me good?" Jesus asked him. "Only God is truly good."