

Here For It

Why Is There Pain and Suffering in the World?

JANUARY 29, 2022

Pain and suffering in the world can be one of the biggest reasons many doubt the goodness or even the existence of God. How do we frame the suffering we see and experience?

MESSAGE NOTES AND HIGHLIGHTS

- Why is there pain and suffering in the world?
- “You must never confuse faith that you will prevail in the end – which you can never afford to lose – with the discipline to confront the most brutal facts of your current reality, whatever they might be.” | Admiral Jim Stockdale
- Never give up hope, but don’t lie to yourself about the current reality.
- The Brutal Fact—There is a connection between sin and suffering.
- His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” | John 9, v.2
- “Neither this man nor his parents sinned,” said Jesus, “but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him.” | John 9, v.3
- “While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” | John 9, v.5
- Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned. | Romans 5, v.12
- For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God’s abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ! | Romans 5, v.17
- In our suffering, we discover the sufficiency of our Savior, the faithfulness of our father, and that there can be purpose in the pain.
- Suffering is not a sign of God’s absence, but a confirmation of his sustaining presence, because we know that in all things God is at work for good and for his glory.
- Suffering is an opportunity to be comforted by God’s Spirit.
- Suffering is an opportunity to show that when everything is knocked out from under me, God’s grace is all I need.
- Suffering is an opportunity to trust God more deeply and follow more fully.
- Suffering can be what God uses to remind me of my weakness, meet me with his goodness, and grow my faith to be even greater.
- Christians believe in a God that allowed the worst possible thing to happen to the best possible person—Jesus.
- I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world. | John 16, v.33
- “Never lose faith in the end of the story.” | Admiral Jim Stockdale

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. When you see or experience suffering, what are some of your initial responses? How do you think about or deal with it?
2. What struggles or challenges to your faith have pain and suffering presented?
3. In what ways have you found that your experiences of suffering have led you any closer to God, or deepened in your faith at all?
4. What helps you to process or deal with suffering when you observe or experience it?