

HARD QUESTIONS

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Pain has, in some cases, developed genius, hunting out the soul which otherwise might have slept like a lion in its den. Had it not been for the broken wing, some might have lost themselves in the clouds, some even of those choice doves who now bear the olive branch in their mouths and show the way to the ark. – Charles Spurgeon

Maybe it's fear, addiction, a personality disorder, abuse, mental illness, personal failures, loss. Have you ever asked "Why?" "Where's God?" Do you wonder what to do in your dark night?

We don't know the reasons for some things on this side of heaven. Sometimes people will try to package life up for you with Christian clichés and easy answers. Some will ignore the deeper questions and change the subject—the truth can be uncomfortable for us.

The truth is sometimes we pray for healing that never comes. Sometimes people steal our innocence when we are too young to defend ourselves. Sometimes people we love die. Sometimes we can't shake the mental illness. Sometimes things don't turn out as we expect. Sometimes everything we love is taken from us.

When we forget that Christ is the representative of the oppressed, it's easy for us to ask "Why, God? Where were You? Where are You now?" But it was Jesus who said, "Blessed are those who mourn."

The hard question is: Can you reconcile your pain with your system of beliefs?

Godly and true religion will always make a place for pain, for human suffering. The biblical Christianity is one that wrestles through the dark night for a blessing. It deals with the depth of sin present within. Sometimes walking with the Lord in His grace means walking with Him through the shadow of death.

In the garden, Christ suffered more pain than we could ever bear. He knew that He was about to suffer more than anyone else ever would, and He endured it willingly.

Some atheists ask how there could be a God in all this mess. "All this sadness and suffering, why doesn't He stop it?" While some Christians make false promises: "God will give you whatever you want. You'll never be sad." So often we ask the wrong questions and give the wrong answers.

In a way, both Christian and secular systems can fail to relate to the sufferings of Christ (His agony in the garden, His moral struggle, His face-to-face encounters with Satan himself, His loneliness, His physical torture and suffering). As long as we disregard the humanity and pain of Jesus, our systems will fail to shed light on the truth of our own pain.