

God, I have a Question?
GOD, WHY IS THERE SO MUCH SUFFERING?

Pastor Chuck Wysong
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The Main Character: **GOD**

Supporting Cast Member: **ME**

UNTHINKABLE #1: I REWRITE THE SCRIPT TO DO WHAT I WANT TO DO.

UNTHINKABLE #2: WHEN IT APPEARS AS THOUGH GOD VEERS FROM THE SCRIPT.

FAITH and **TRUST** in God will NOT be defined when everything goes according to the script. Faith and trust in God will be **DEFINED** when the UNTHINKABLE happens.

For many people, when the UNTHINKABLE happens they sometimes...

- Turn their back to God
- They stop following the ways and teachings of Jesus
- They leave the church

"I [Jesus] 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." John 16:33

"When John heard in prison what Christ was doing, he sent his disciples to ask him, "Are you the one who was to come, or should we expect someone else?" Jesus replied, "Go back and report to John what you hear and see: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is preached to the poor. Blessed is the man who does not fall away on account of me." Matthew 11:2-6

"They went to the olive grove called Gethsemane, and Jesus said, "Sit here while I go and pray." He took Peter, James, and John with him, and he became deeply troubled and distressed. He told them, "My soul is crushed with grief to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me." He went on a little farther and fell to the ground. He prayed that, if it were possible, the awful hour awaiting him might pass him by. "Abba, Father," he cried out, "everything is possible for you. Please take this cup of suffering away from me. **Yet I want your will to be done, not mine.**" Mark 14:32-36

Verse 36: "**I want your will to be done, not mine.**"

God never promised GLEE ... but he did promise GLORY

"Instead, be very glad—for these trials make you partners with Christ in his suffering, so that you will have the wonderful joy of seeing his glory when it is revealed to all the world." 1 Peter 4:13

TIME WITH GOD

Here's a chance to spend some time each day this week meditating on today's topic!

This week's memory verse:

"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 16:33

Monday

Look back over the message notes and Bible verses from this past weekend.

What point "jumped out" at you?

Read Psalm 10:1, 14-18. How does it help to know that all the questions we have today about suffering were asked by Bible writers already?

How would you summarize the Bible's answer to the question, "If God is all-loving and all-powerful, why is there still suffering?"

What is the Bible's immediate answer -- and long term answer—to suffering?

Thank God today that He is a God of love and comfort. Thank Him for giving us hope. Ask Him to help you sense His care for you today!

Tuesday

Read Romans 5:12, John 16:33 & Revelation 21:1-5. These verses assure us that we will have trouble in this life-- but they also comfort us that eternity will not be like this. Describe a point in your past (or maybe right now) when you've blamed God's will for what was actually the result of man's free will.

How does the principle that "we have a broken world, not a broken God" help you face the "whys" in life?

Thank the Lord today that He has given you a free will - that He didn't just make a world full of robots. Thank Him that He is not a broken God and that in the end He will make all things new.

Wednesday

Read Isaiah 30:18, Psalm 96:13 & Acts 17:31.

What is the most reassuring thing to you about God's justice?

What situation are you facing where you find it difficult to wait for or trust God's justice?

Thank God today that He has taken ultimate justice in to His hands and not left it up to us. Ask Him for the patience and trust to wait for His justice to come.

Thursday

Read Romans 8:28. What is the promise in this verse?

How is the cross itself an example of the power of God to turn tragedy into triumph?

Read Romans 8:36-39. These verses clearly point out that absolutely nothing in the whole world can separate us from God's love. How does God's constant love encourage you in the midst of suffering?

What can you do to remind yourself that you are never out of His loving care?

Thank God today for His never-ending love for you. Thank Him that you are always in His care. Ask Him to help you remember through the day and when the tough times come He loves you!

Friday

Read Philippians 2:15. What practical things can you take today to

"shine like a star" where God has placed you?

What principle from this week's study do you want to put into action?

Ask God today to be the Light that shines through you. Thank Him that we have no reason to fear to this world because He is in total control.

Saturday

Please polish up the memory verse and finish any devotions you may have missed. Pray that you'll apply the lessons from this week -- and please continue to pray for our church and may God use us to make a difference for Him. Please pray for His will to be done in and through us. Thanks!