

Fearless Q – Week 7

HOW CAN A GOOD GOD ALLOW EVIL AND SUFFERING?

discussing pain and suffering

HEAD

1. **Where do we go to understand?**

-search the scriptures - stick to what the scriptures say

- Psalm 56:8
- Isaiah 55:8-9
- Mark 15:16-20
- Romans 8:18, 28
- 2 Corinthians 1:3-7



HEART

2. **What questions does this cause you to ask?**

-acknowledge the struggle - do not attempt to answer now

- Does God know I'm in pain? Why won't he do anything about it?
- Why did God allow this to happen to me?
- Why doesn't God stop all suffering?
- Why did my relative die from cancer?
- How can God possibly be good?
- Does God really exist?
- Is God powerful enough to stop this?
- Other _____

3. **How do the scriptures above help as you wrestle through your questions?**

-invite the Spirit into the mystery—use your Bible study to wrestle



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What Chapel Hill's pastors have understood in our wrestling:

God is powerful enough to end evil and suffering, but has chosen to allow it for a time. We may not understand why he allows it, but we know he is at work in the midst of suffering and is working it all together for good. God did not remain distant from our suffering but chose to suffer with us so that one day we might be with him where there is no pain or suffering.

HANDS



4. How can we talk about this with others?

-practice the conversation

- You are with a ten year old boy whose friend in class is dying of leukemia. He wants to know if God sees this friend of his. How do you talk with him? and with his parents?
- You know a neighbor who used to be in the church until tragedy struck their family. Now you haven't seen them around for several weeks. How do you approach them?

5. Take it to the Lord in prayer.

Our Good Father, sometimes it is hard for us to see your goodness. You see us suffering. Your Word says you collect our tears and that one day there won't be any more tears. But we long for that day now. This is the suffering we want you to see: [pray for the things currently grieving you]. Help us believe the promise that you will work together everything for good for those who love you. Strengthen our love for you and our trust in you. We ask in Jesus' name, Amen.