

A Theology of Suffering

This brief paper is not an apologetic on the subject of pain and evil even though it will be addressed in the opening section. The purpose is to help strengthen the faith of believers in the God that saved them and to remind them of both his sovereignty and love in a sin-cursed world where pain and suffering exist. **Hebrews 11:6**

Apologetics is the defense of or arguments for one's beliefs. God has graced us with a number of brilliant and gifted apologists for our personal encouragement as well as a tool for ministry to both believers and non-believers. These apologists include, but certainly are not limited to C.S. Lewis, Ravi Zacharias, Josh McDowell, Lee Strobel, Carl Kerby, Norman Geisler, John Piper, Ronald Nash, William Lane Craig, Ken Ham, and the Answers in Genesis ministry team.

1 Peter 3:15 *But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an *answer to every man that asks you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:* (Greek word *apologia to our English apology = translated "answer")

As believers, we are aware of the fact that multitudes have used the issue of evil and suffering in the world as an excuse to reject God's Word; yet, others truly wrestle with this very complex problem and struggle in connecting the dots between God's power and love. They conclude he cannot be both powerful and loving when so much evil and suffering is in our world.

Ravi Zacharias stated that he had never been in a conversation with a skeptic who failed to raise the issue of evil and suffering for their principle reason for skepticism. It is a very difficult and, at times, a highly emotional and explosive topic. No amount of sound theology can protect us from suffering nor remove the pain in suffering. However, it does help us to trust God in the midst of suffering, and it plays a vital role in our response and recovery. **2 Timothy 3:16-17** *The reality is this, a trial expected is not the same as a trial experienced.*

We become uncomfortable when not only critics question God but when believers do as well. To ask a question of or to question God is not a sin but to demand or expect an answer is. Asking out of a suffering heart is a natural response, to ask for some direction and insight is not only appropriate but **Biblical**. (**2 Corinthians 12:7-10, James 1:1-5**) This is patterned for us throughout the Psalms and various prophets.

Habakkuk 1:3-4 *Why do You show me iniquity, And cause me to see trouble? For plundering and violence are before me; There is strife, and contention arises. 4 Therefore the law is powerless, And justice never goes forth. For the wicked surround the righteous; Therefore perverse judgment proceeds.*

Do skeptics have better answers?

How do they explain the problem of **evil and suffering**? Not only do they need to provide an answer for evil, but they have to defend why they believe they can leave God out of the equation. The following is adapted from a question and answer time with Ravi Zacharias at the

University of Nottingham, England. An individual in the audience made the following attack upon God by stating the following...

"There cannot possibly be a God with all the evil and suffering that exists in the world!"

Ravi asked if he could interact on the issue for a few moments: "When you say there is such a thing as evil, you are assuming that there is such a thing as good?"

The audience member replied, "Of course."

Ravi continues, "But when you assume there is such a thing as good, are you not also assuming that there is such a thing as moral law on the basis of which to distinguish between good and evil?"

"I suppose so," the audience member replied with a hesitant and much softer answer.

Ravi responds, "If there is a moral law, you must assume a moral lawgiver. If there is no moral lawgiver, there is no moral law; therefore there is no good, meaning there is no evil. If God does not exist, neither 'good' nor 'bad' is a meaningful term. What is one's point of reference of good and evil if there is no God? If one argues that it is personal feelings or culture that determines right from wrong, they create an additional set of serious questions."

Ravi then stated that in some cultures they loved their neighbors, while in other cultures they ate them – both on the basis of feelings. He asked if we would have a preference. He further pointed out how would one justify differentiating between good and bad? Would it be based on feelings or a majority vote? Whose feelings, whose vote, Hitler's or Mother Teresa argued Zacharias.

The blessing and challenge of living in a prosperous nation:

Religious freedom and abundance of material blessings rests upon the people of the United States. *With that said*, there comes with this prosperity some great spiritual challenges. A major challenge is that our default button states that God's love for us is synonymous with comfort and happiness. Does this type of Westernized thinking contradict Biblical teaching? Let's examine how we view "good". Westernized thinking sees "good" as things going our way, having a loving spouse, polite and obedient children, a nice paying job, and being respected and appreciated for who we are. To clarify, there is actually nothing wrong for wanting these things. The issue comes into play when we don't get it. **James 4:1-4** teaches us that people want something so bad that they are willing to sin if they don't get it or sin to get it, and therein lays the problem for followers of Christ.

The biblical **definition** of "good" is that God allows and, sometimes by design, places pain in our life to conform us into the image of his son. **Romans 8:28-29** does not inform us that "all things that happen are good", it reads, "all things happen for our good."

To counter Westernized thinking, notice the language of the New Testament in regards to followers of Jesus Christ: fiery trials, grief, sorrow upon sorrow, cast down, affliction, sentence of death within us, tribulation, weariness, scourging, imprisonment, in torments, suffering, **destitute, torture, and death.**

Matthew 5:44 *But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you*

We have the testimony of the Apostle Paul **regarding his suffering** as a believer.

2 Corinthians 11:24-28 *Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one. 25 Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep; 26 In journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; 27 In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness. 28 Beside those things that are without, that which cometh upon me daily, the care of all the churches.*

The Hall of Faith chapter of Hebrews 11 ends with the alarming reality of evil and suffering.

Hebrews 11:35-38 *Women received their dead raised to life again: and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection: 36 And others had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment: 37 They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented; 38 (Of whom the world was not worthy:) they wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth.*

The theme of **1 Peter** is all about suffering for the cause of Christ.

- **1 Peter 1:6-7** - Heaviness through various trials, your faith being tried as by fire
- **1 Peter 2:21** - Christ suffered leaving us an example that we should follow.
- **1 Peter 2:23** - When Christ suffered he did not threaten in return.
- **1 Peter 3:14** - If ye suffer for righteousness' sake... be not afraid of their terror...
- **1 Peter 4:12** - Don't be surprised by the fiery trials.
- **1 Peter 4:13** - We are partakers of Christ's sufferings.
- **1 Peter 4:16** - If any one suffers let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God
- **1 Peter 4:19** - Them that suffer according to the will of God
- **1 Peter 5:10** - You have suffered a while

Why do people suffer?

1. God's will, he has directly planned or allowed it. **Acts 9:15-16, 2 Corinthians 12:7-10,**
2. A part of living in a sin-cursed, fallen world

3. Consequences as a result of our sin
4. Consequences as a result of the sins of others

Trying to understand the reasons people suffer:

At times, the reasons are made clear immediately, a drunk driver runs a light crashing into the oncoming car. Was God able to have the other driver slow down or have engine failure to avoid the wreck? Yes he was. Does God choose to step in every time an accident or crime is ready to occur? Of course not, and I am unsure of what that world would look like if we had such a guarantee? The Bible says that God sees a sparrow when it falls from the sky; nothing, absolutely nothing misses his attention. But notice, he allowed the sparrow to fall. C.S. Lewis argued that wood by nature is hard, and a 2 x 4 may be used to help sturdy a house; or it can be used as a club to smash in the head of its victim. Is God supposed to keep the wood solid when used for framing and have it turn into a marshmallow when it is used in a crime?

At other times, the reasons **for suffering** are revealed later, as in the life of Joseph and his brothers. (**Genesis 37-50**) Another example of God providing insight to suffering deals with the Apostle Paul's Roman imprisonment. (**Philippians 1:13-14**) The following two reasons are clearly stated in the text. First, Paul was able to share the gospel to those involved with the Roman government. Secondly, Paul's willingness to live for Christ in prison brought great encouragement and courage for other believers to be bold in their faith. The Bible is filled with events in which God gave us information as to some of the reasons for suffering. However, often we are not provided with answers and will not be on this side of Heaven. (Life of Job) Being content in "seeing through a glass darkly" is not easy. (**1Corinthians 13:12**) and God's people are called to live a life of faith. **Hebrews 11:6**

***Deuteronomy 29:29** The secret things belong unto the LORD our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law.*

Now that a basic foundation has been laid out concerning suffering, it is crucial that we allow the truth of God's attributes to minister to our hearts and minds. God offers and provides, in Christ and through the ministry of the Holy Spirit, a peace that surpasses (not bypasses) all human reasoning. A peace that cannot be purchased and a peace many search for in all the wrong places.

***Proverbs 3:5-7** Trust in the LORD with all your heart; and lean not unto your own understanding. 6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. 7 Be not wise in your own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil.*

What is the positive command in **Proverbs 3:5**? Trust in the LORD, acknowledge him, and fear him.

What is the negative command in that passage? Lean not on your own reasoning and wisdom, depart from evil.

How do we deal with such a difficult issue as suffering?

The bottom line is this, we must rest in the attributes of God. We place our trust in who he is. **God's attributes** teach us that he is worthy of being trusted in everything whether we understand it or not. To skeptics that may sound like, "do away with logic and reason." This is incorrect. God himself calls us to reason with him. (**Isaiah 1:18**) Some of the most brilliant men and women of the past and present have discovered it very logical to trust God with their lives and futures.

God's attributes teach us that he is worthy of being trusted. Let's look at just two of them here:

1. love
2. power

What we do know about God's love and power helps us with what we don't know. The following two points are **wonderful** truths that support the claim that God is worthy of complete trust regardless of our circumstances.

1. God's demonstration of love in sending his Son to suffer and die on our behalf.
2. God's power in raising Jesus from the dead.

Read the above two statements again asking the following questions.

What "assures us" that God should and can be trusted?

Answer: Jesus came and died for us.

What supernatural way "confirms to us" God is able to be trusted?

Answer: Jesus rose from the dead.

Romans 1:1-4 *Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God, 2 (Which he had promised afore by his prophets in the holy scriptures,) 3 Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh; 4 And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead:*

Acts 17:31 *Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead.*

We must take our doubts, fears, frustrations, confusion, and pain to Christ. He is an experienced sufferer. Jesus is no stranger to heartache and pain.

Hebrews 4:14-16 *Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. 15 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. 16 Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.*

Hebrews 12:1-3 *Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us*

run with patience the race that is set before us, 2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. 3 For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.

Hebrews 13:5-6 *Let your conduct be without covetousness, be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." So we may boldly say, The LORD is my helper, I will not fear what can man do to me?*

There is a great deal of harm man can do to us. They can slander us, persecute us, and even kill us. With all of that said, we can still trust Christ because he promised never to leave us. God is present in every trial we face, he sees every tear we cry. O' that God would build our faith in such a way that would help us believe the promises of Christ.

God's **attributes** teach us that he is worthy of being trusted. We will look at three of them.

1. God is completely sovereign.
2. God is infinite in wisdom.
3. God is perfect in love.

Throughout Scripture we find passages to support these three wonderful and immeasurable attributes. May this brief overview create a desire in your heart to study this subject in further detail.

1. God is Sovereign. God is eternal and self-existent. Everything else and everyone else is ultimately dependent upon God for survival. He is in full control; he has never turned complete authority over to man or demons on how the planet will be operated. God does not get surprised or have to regroup to plan B. He does not wonder what Satan is up to next for Satan is a created being, thereby limited. Satan is much more intelligent and powerful than any human, but remains under the ultimate control of God. One day Satan will be forced into the lake of fire where he will suffer for all eternity, and he will have no option but to obey that command. **Revelation 20:10**

Why then does God allow Satan to have such freedom? The short answer is: Whenever demons do horrible things and God does not stop them from doing it, God has a reason for allowing them to do what they are doing. For further information on this topic see John Piper's book *Seeing and Savoring Christ*. He has a chapter addressing God's glory by not removing Satan.

The question is, are we able to trust God for the "reason?" We could ask, Is God worthy to be trusted with the "reason?" That is a much easier question, and the answer is yes because of what we looked at earlier in his demonstration of love and power. He spoke the universe into existence. He did this in six days but could have just as easily created it all in six seconds.

One big problem with a man-centered, westernized worldview is that it begins with the “created” and then moves to the “creator.” This type of man-focused reasoning distorts Scripture, confuses believers, and produces a great amount of difficulty for the individual and society-at-large. We see the final result of man-centered religion in Romans 1.

Romans 1:25 *Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.*

On the other hand, a God-centered Christianity starts with the Creator’s indescribable and incomparable power. Notice the reference point of **Psalm 8**; it is God and his creative power. When you start there, the response is “What is man that you are mindful of him?” Start with God, and then the focus on man is in its proper place.

Psalm 8:3-4 *When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; 4 What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visit him?*

Romans 9:20-21 *But indeed, O man, who are you to reply against God? Will the thing formed say to him who formed it, "Why have you made me like this?" 21 Does not the potter have power over the clay, from the same lump to make one vessel for honor and another for dishonor?*

Who is the potter? Who is the clay?
God-centered Christianity places the focus on the potter.

Psalm 115:3 *For our God is in the heavens: he hath done whatsoever he hath pleased.*

Job 42:2 *I know that thou canst do everything, and that no thought can be withheld from thee.*

The final point in looking at God’s sovereignty surrounds the Roman leader Pilate and addresses just how much authority he really had.

John 19:10-11 *Then Pilate said to Him, “Are You not speaking to me? Do You not know that I have power to crucify You, and power to release You?”¹¹ Jesus answered, “You could have no power at all against Me unless it had been given you from above*

Who was really in control of that trial? Was God up in Heaven wondering what was going to come of his son? Was he hoping Pilate would make the right choice and protect Christ? The sovereign God “allowed” Pilate to live, rule, and make these decisions because he had a “reason” for it. We know the reason. It was to satisfy the just demands of a holy God in order to purchase our salvation! May you praise God for his sovereignty! May you rest in it when you face deep waters of suffering!

1. God is completely sovereign.
2. God is infinite in wisdom.

Psalm 145:17 *The Lord is righteous in all his ways, and holy in all his works.*

Romans 11:33-36 *O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out! 34 For who hath known the mind of the Lord? or who hath been his counselor? 35 Or who hath first given to him, and it shall be recompensed unto him again? 36 For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things: to whom be glory for ever. Amen.*

Every decision that God makes is right, every decision! It amazes at times how proud our finite and fallen minds can become. We play God; we question him and correct him. Sincere believers attempt to “get God off the hook” when terrible things occur, by saying he had no part in the crisis. God does not want off the hook. In his infinite wisdom he allows everything to happen that happens. Re: **Isaiah 45:7**

God is not limited or threatened by our foolishness. God cannot be manipulated or deceived by demon or man. All of this may be easy to believe and embrace when things are going well for us, but our faith is put to the test during a crisis. We are at the mercy of God’s enabling grace to help us trust him when our personal world is shattered. When nothing makes sense and God “seems” to be at a distance, we have the promise of Christ that he will never forsake us. **Hebrews 13:5-6**

The Psalms are filled with heart-felt words that express concern and frustration as to the way God works. These divine guarded journals communicate to us that God allows every emotion to be shared with him. What he does not want is our feelings to judge what he deems as best and right. The fact is God owes no one an explanation. What he chooses to reveal or conceal is totally based on his wisdom. What God does and what God allows is always right.

We have scores of Biblical examples to encourage us to believe God is infinite in wisdom and should be trusted, even in the dark and in the valley of the shadow of death. **Psalm 23**

1 Corinthians 10:11-13 *Now all these things (events in the Old Testament surrounding Moses and the Jews) happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come. 12 Wherefore let him that thinks he stands take heed lest he fall. 13 There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.*

There are two common errors addressed in this passage as a caution:

1. Becoming over-confident **v12** – Those silly Jews, I would never treat God like that.
2. Becoming over-whelmed **v13** – If they failed seeing all the miracles, I don’t have a chance.

God in his wisdom allows us to learn from their examples and warns us of possible wrong conclusions. God’s infinite wisdom is portrayed and displayed all over the pages of Scripture.

1. God is completely sovereign.
2. God is infinite in wisdom.
3. God is perfect in love.

What if God loves us so much that he has a higher goal, a better plan for us than just our short-term comfort? Remember we tend to see “good” as things going our way, such as having a life that is happy and comfortable. We live with a temporal worldview; our focus is on this life which leads us to respond to “felt needs”, expectations, and immediate gratification.

God defines “good” as using everything in our life to confirm us into the image of his son. Everything includes the bad things that occur and also includes our failures and sins. Find some praise in this great truth! **Romans 8:28-29**

In our own wisdom we cannot see “bad things” as being synonymous with God’s love. This should not be difficult to accept especially as parents because at times we tell our kids “no”, which brings disappointment and unhappiness in their life. At other times we discipline them which results in dissatisfaction for them. Yet, these are done as an expression of our love and concern. Causing or allowing displeasure to our children at times confirms our love. It doesn’t disprove it. How much more is this true with God? Find rest for in your soul in the full assurance that God is completely and accurately aware of every detail of your life. Day by day, minute by minute, second by second, God is aware. Try as you may to comprehend this truth, but the omniscience of God is far beyond anything our minds can grasp.

Psalm 139:1-4 O LORD, you have searched me and known me. You know my sitting down and rising up. You understand my thought afar off. You comprehend my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways. For there is not a word on my tongue, but behold O LORD, you know it altogether.

WOW! There is no God like our God! Before any thought enters our mind, God knows it. Before any word exits our mouth, God is aware of it. King David’s response to this truth is recorded in verse 6 “Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, it is high, I cannot attain it.”

Because God’s love is perfect, it is outside of our complete comprehension. God’s definition of love must supersede that of man’s. God’s love is to want the very best for us and knowing what that best is. The challenge for us is to embrace his definition of love and trust God in his love.

An overview of **John 3:16** should provide some spiritual insight into God’s love.

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

The Context of John 3:16

Step back into 1st century Christianity. The context of John 3 begins with a dialogue between the religious and respected leader, Nicodemus and Jesus. For a Jew to hear the offer of salvation in Christ is to “whoever believes” would be quite alarming. For some, this offer could not be for the Samaritans or Gentiles, and certainly not the immoral people of that day. Is the passage suggesting that prostitutes and drunkards could have their sins forgiven? What about the pagan Romans? Yes, even the pagan Romans. That is exactly what this passage is teaching. Christ extends forgiveness, therefore a relation with the Father, therefore eternal life to all that come to Him in faith is granted. That is the promise of “whoever believes.”

What sticks out about John 3:16? Wouldn't you agree it is **Love**?

Let's explore and confirm this by asking four questions:

1. What does **John 3:16** clearly state in regards to God's view of the world? He loved the world.
2. How was this love demonstrated? By God giving us his Son
3. In what way did God give us his Son? By having Christ die on our behalf
4. What type of death did Jesus face? He was beaten, abused, and hung on a cross for 6 hours.

Again, ask yourself, what sticks out about **John 3:16**? It is **Love**?

Imagine the disciples. What a nightmare they experienced the night Jesus was arrested. The fear, the shame, and the hiding, it was a couple of very difficult days for these followers. What about Mary, Jesus' mom? She witnessed her son's suffering. She watched him die a cruel death. Could anyone really describe what she experienced? Horrific heartache. Then there was Jesus himself, he went through the disgrace and felt every punch, thorn and nail. Six hours nailed to a cross, facing one of the most painful methods of torture. God the Father with all his power allowed this to happen to his only begotten son.

All of sudden the theme of “love” in **John 3:16** takes on another dimension. There was a great amount of pain, fear, confusion, and heartache experienced in this action of love. Wrapped up in God's love at times is a great deal of pain and suffering because he has the entire picture. God has all the information. This means even in the greatest demonstration of love, there was pain and suffering.

When God allows pain and suffering he has a **reason** for it. A **reason** we may never comprehend on this side of heaven, therefore **we worship him by trusting in his reason**. We are able to do this because of who God is. His attributes assure us that we are able to place complete trust in him.

God is completely sovereign. **God is** infinite in wisdom. **God is** perfect in love.

Habakkuk 3:17-18 Although the fig tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines; the labour of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat; the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stalls: 18 ***Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation.***

2 Corinthians 12:7-10 *And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure. 8 Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. 9 And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. 10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.*

Paul's circumstances did not change but his perspective changed. The change was a result of a better understanding of and a trusting in God's grace, not in receiving answers to his questions or deliverance from his suffering. God's grace is the ability and strength that he provides to believers through the ministry of the Holy Spirit thereby empowering and enabling believers to remain faithful in obedience regardless of the circumstances. Place yourself at the mercy of God as a channel for his immeasurable grace. **James 4:6-10, 1Peter 5:5-7**

In conclusion, let us be reminded of the exhortation in **Hebrews 12:1-3**.

Hebrews 12:1-3 *Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, 2 **Looking unto Jesus** the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. 3 **For consider him** that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.*

CD Messages available by Pastor Jerry

A Theology of Suffering (pt 1)	Acts 9	1.15.12
A Theology of Suffering (pt 2)	Acts 8,9	1.22.12
Spiritual Depression (pt 1)	Psalm 42	
Spiritual Depression (pt 2)	Psalm 42	
*Suffering and God's Grace *with Testimony of Gail Linville		
Trusting God: Even in the Dark	2 Corinthians 12	

Resources: Listed in order from easy to difficult to read

Ken Ham, How Could A Loving God? Powerful Answers on Suffering and Loss Kay Arthur, Lord, Heal my Hurts
James MacDonald, When Life is Hard
Jerry Bridges, Trusting God, Even When Life Hurts
C.S. Lewis, The Problem with Pain

C.S. Lewis, A Grief Observed
John Piper, Suffering and the Sovereignty of God
Ravi Zacharias, Cries of the Heart

God is completely sovereign; God is infinite in wisdom.

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