

DAY 2

“Why right now am I standing at my mother’s grave, if God is so good then why did she die while giving birth to me?”



Let's say for a moment that there is an amazing, powerful and loving God that created all that exists. Let's say that we aren't an accident and we are designed with a purpose in mind. Let's say this is true for a moment. Doesn't this beg the question, that is, if God is truly the creator, the greatest conceivable being that loves humanity and has designed us with a purpose then why does evil exist in this world? Why doesn't God stop all the bad things from happening?

Chan's biological mother died while she was giving birth to him. He then lost his stepmother due to a car accident when he was only 8 years old and shortly after that his father passed away from cancer when he was just 12 years old. This created a lot of pain in Chan's life and he began to ask some real and serious questions.

Why do bad things happen? If you're all powerful why would you allow my whole family to die one by one beginning at birth?

What are some of the instances in your life that have made or still make you question God's power, as well as his love for you?



*“The Bible says this is not the way it’s supposed to be.
Something did go wrong.”*

Read Genesis 2-3

This passage describes what really went wrong between God and humanity.

Genesis 2:16-17

And the Lord God commanded the man, “You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die.”

Genesis 3:1-7

Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden?’” The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, but God did say, ‘You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die. You will not certainly die,” the serpent said to the woman. “For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

Humanity was created to be in a loving relationship with God, but something went very wrong. Based on your reading of Genesis 2 & 3 state what went wrong in your own words.

“After Adam and Eve chose to disobey God and eat of the forbidden fruit everything changed and suddenly death entered the world.”



There is a curse upon this earth; therefore, when you take a good look at the world around you and you say something is wrong, something is not right, you are absolutely correct!

One day God will make everything new and there will be a new Heaven and Earth and everything will be put right once again, but until then there is still good news.

James 1:2-4 (ESV)

Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

How can one count all their pain and trials as joy?

Can you think of a few times that God turned your trials in life into something amazing and good?

Looking back upon your past trials how has God used them to strengthen and increase your faith in him?

“The crazy thing is that God can use the pain that we are going through for his glory and turn it into something good.”



Using Francis Chan’s cake analogy, there are several ingredients that go into making a cake. Some of them are tasty and some of them are not so tasty. For example, combining sugar and milk are tasty, but mixing baking powder and flour tastes terrible! When you place all the ingredients together and place it in the oven to cook, the end result is something more amazing than any one ingredient on it’s own could have managed. All the ingredients are used to make this perfect cake just the way the baker planned it.

So it is with God.

God uses and mixes all sorts of ingredients into our lives and some of those come in the way of trials, which can cause us pain, while others can be sweet and bring us tremendous happiness, but in the end what God is looking for is the final result. God is concerned about who you are at the end of your life.

James 1:12 (ESV)

Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him.

Do you carry any resentment personally towards God because of trials you are currently facing? Have you brought it before God?

It's okay to bring your questions and doubts before God. God loves you more than you could ever know. The real question is, will you choose to stand steadfast in your love for God and allow him to use your trials to strengthen you, or will you choose to turn away from him and allow that bitterness to grow?

Have you ever carried bitterness in your heart about something or someone? Have you let go of the bitterness you carried and if so how describe the feelings you felt when you finally let it go.

When you love God, not because he gives you everything you desire, but rather because you simply love him (regardless of your circumstances), God promises you the crown of life.

Describe what you think James is talking about when he says that those who love God and are steadfast will attain the crown of life?

Proverbs 3:5-6

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

Know that God loves you and that he knows what is best for you. A day is coming when things will be made right, but until then know and allow God to use all the ingredients in your life to make you into his masterpiece.