

MYSTERIOUS WAYS

Part 2: "The Good God Dilemma"

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MY FAITH NEEDS TO GROW BIGGER THAN BELIEVING THAT 'GOD IS GOOD' AS LONG AS...

1THE SUFFERING IS HAPPENING TO

"Make no mistake: God can't be mocked. What you give is what you get. What you sow, you harvest. Those who sow seeds into their flesh will only harvest destruction from their sinful nature. But those who sow seeds into the Spirit shall harvest everlasting life from the Spirit."

Galatians 6:7-8 (TVB)

"A mean person gets paid back in meanness, a gracious person in grace. The gullible believe anything they're told; the prudent sift and weigh every word. The wise watch their steps and avoid evil; fools are headstrong and reckless."

Proverbs 14:14-16 (MSG)

2.	THE PAIN FEELS	
	TO ME.	

"Before <u>every person</u> lies a road that <u>seems to</u> <u>be right</u>, but the end of that road is death and destruction."

Proverbs 14:12 (TVB)

"When a person is tempted, they shouldn't say, 'God is tempting me.' God can't be tempted by evil. And he doesn't tempt anyone. But <u>each</u> person is tempted by their own evil desires. These desires lead them on and drag them away. When these desires are <u>allowed to remain</u>, they lead to sin. And when sin is <u>allowed to remain and grow</u>, it <u>leads to death</u>."

James 1:13-15 (NIRV)

"Don't run from tests and hardships, brothers and sisters. As difficult as they are, you will <u>ultimately find joy in them</u>; if you embrace them, <u>your faith will blossom</u> under pressure and teach you true patience as you

them, <u>your faith will blossom</u> under pressure and <u>teach you</u> true patience as you endure. And true patience brought on by endurance will <u>equip you</u> to complete the long journey and cross the finish line—<u>mature, complete, and wanting nothing.</u>"

James 1:2-4 (TVB)

"We don't enjoy discipline when we get it. It is <u>painful</u>. But later, after we have learned our lesson from it, <u>we will enjoy the peace</u> that comes from doing what is right."

Hebrews 12:11 (ERV)

3. ...THE SUFFERING ______

"You know the story of how Adam landed us in the dilemma we're in—first sin, then death, and no one exempt from either sin or death. That sin disturbed relations with God in everything and everyone, but the extent of the disturbance was not clear until God spelled it out in detail to Moses. So death, this huge abyss separating us from God, dominated the landscape from Adam to Moses. Even those who didn't sin precisely as Adam did by disobeying a specific command of God still had to experience this termination of life, this separation from God. But Adam, who got us into this, also points ahead to the One who will get us out of it."

Romans 5:12-14 (MSG)

"The way God designed our bodies is a model for understanding our lives together as a church: every part dependent on every other part, the parts we mention and the parts we don't, the parts we see and the parts we don't. If one part hurts, every other part is involved in the hurt, and in the healing. If one part flourishes, every other part enters into the exuberance."

1 Corinthians 12:25-26 (MSG)

"The <u>Lord is close to the brokenhearted</u>, and he saves those whose <u>spirits have been</u> crushed."

Psalm 34:18 (NCV)