

February 11, 2018

WHERE IS GOD IN SUFFERING?

**INTERVIEW NOTES:**

Ps 23:4 Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

Ps 34:18 The LORD is close to the broken-hearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.

Ps 40:1 I waited patiently for the LORD; he turned to me and heard my cry. 2 He lifted me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire; he set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand. 3 He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God.

Mt 11:28 "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.

Joh 16:33 In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.

Ro 5:2 We have gained access by faith into the grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. 3 Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; 4 perseverance, character; and character, hope. 5 And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.

2Cor 4:7 But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. 8 We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; 9 persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed.

2Co 12:9 But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.

Phil 4:6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. 7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

TALK IT OVER

*During the Deeply Rooted series we've asked all of our groups to follow the Rooted curriculum. For those unable to participate in Rooted at this time, we offer the following questions to prompt dialogue with those you can connect with.*

What thoughts did you write down from Mike & Becky's story?

How does your hope in Jesus affect your perspective in hardship?

How do you determine whether God wants you to surrender or overcome your circumstances?

What is God teaching you about suffering?

How is God moving your heart about the suffering of others?

GOOD READ: A Grace Disguised. Jerry Sittser