



"Joey had had some tough days and the decline of her condition was weighing heavy on her and all of our minds." Rory continued: "But in a matter of minutes, Indy had her mama laughing out loud"



Video Softly and Tenderly By Joey Feek

YouTube Link to video:

[Softly and Tenderly —](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bus6j8tFXM8>

Last week

WISDOM FOR

LIVING,

LOVING

(Ecclesiastes, Proverbs,



Not to late to start
Today 10:45
Wed 6:30
On-line lectures

This week

WISDOM FOR

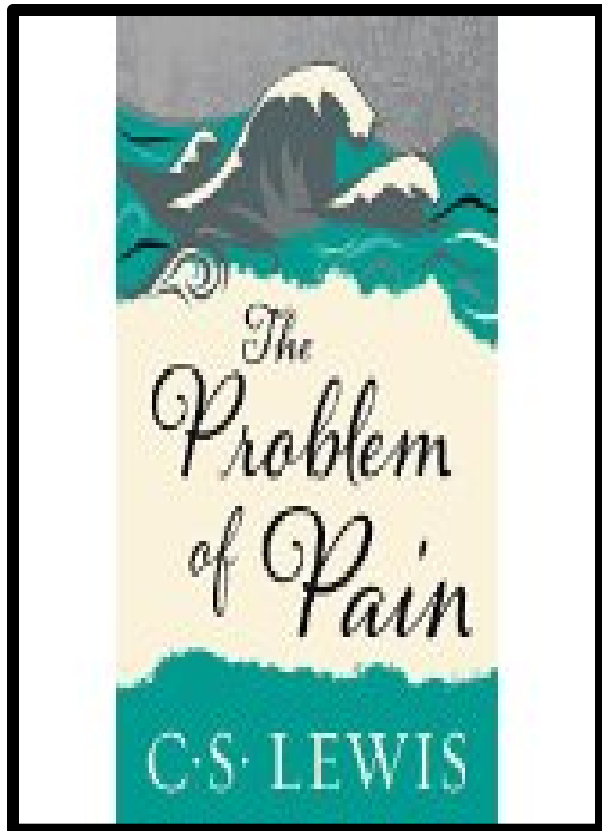
*The Role of Suffering
in the life of the Saints*

Job, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Heb 11

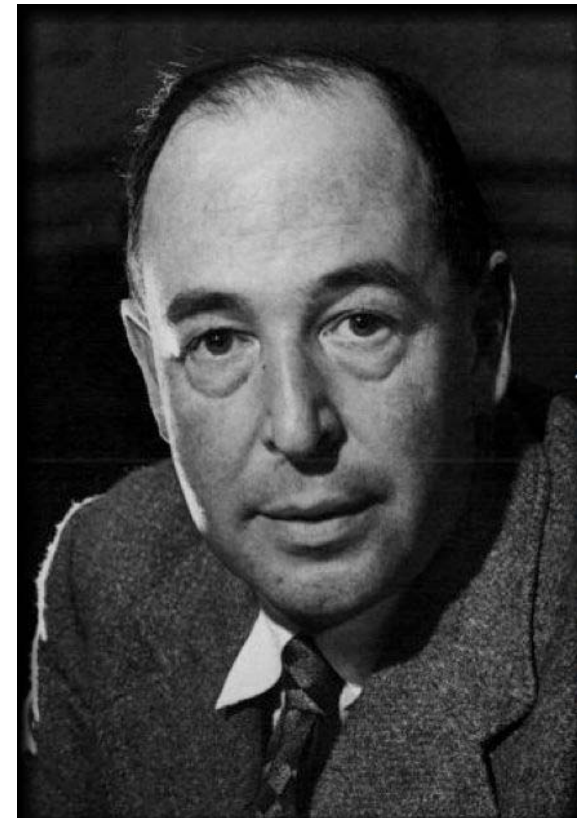


CONNECT the DOTS

“I have never for one moment been in a state of mind to which the imagination of serious pain was less than intolerable. ... If any man is safe from the danger of underestimating this adversary, I am that man.” PoP pg 61



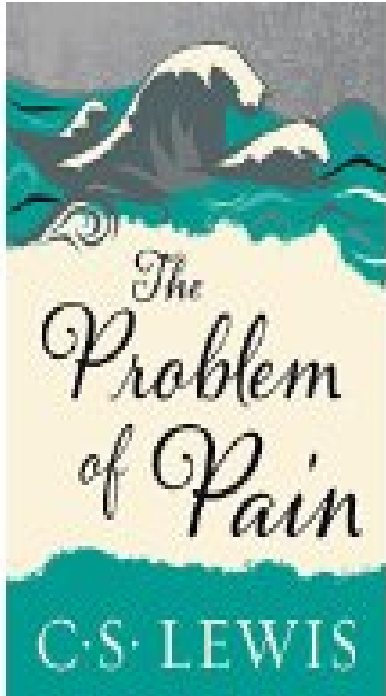
Anonymous?



“I feel like I should remain quiet since my suffering is so much less than the woman who shared that her child had died”



“All Suffering and loss hurts, it is just different not more or less”



“The only purpose of the book is to solve the intellectual problem raised by suffering; for the far higher task of teaching fortitude and patience I have never been fool enough to suppose myself qualified.” PoP pg 61

**PERHAPS I'M
RUSHING IN
WHERE** Lewis **FEAR TO TREAD.**
- PETER NICHOLS -

“Toward a Biblical and God Centered Understanding of the Role of Suffering.”

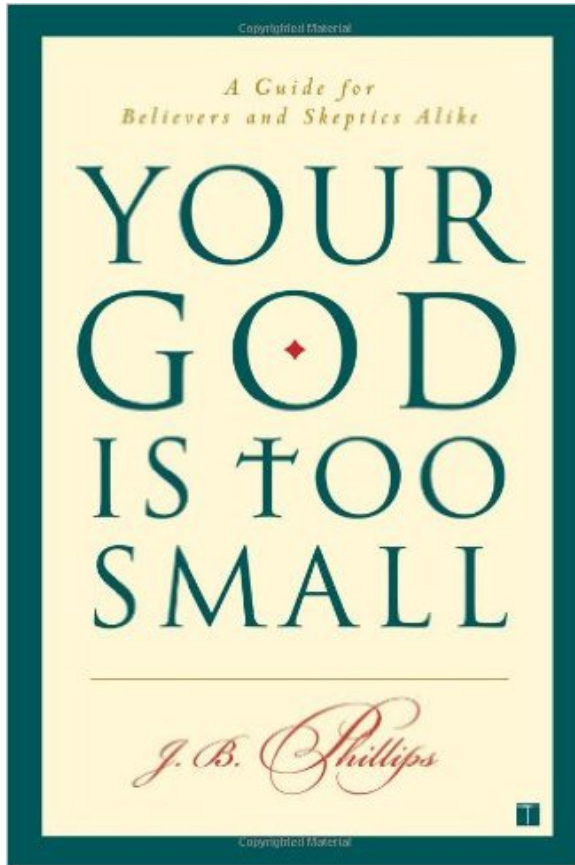
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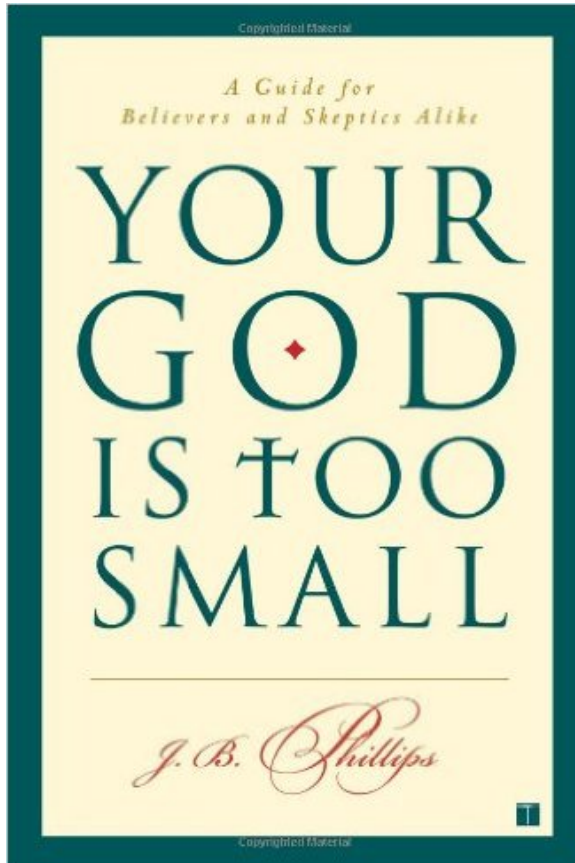
“Toward a Biblical and God Centered Understanding of the Role of Suffering.”



**“I understand suffering and
why it exists”**



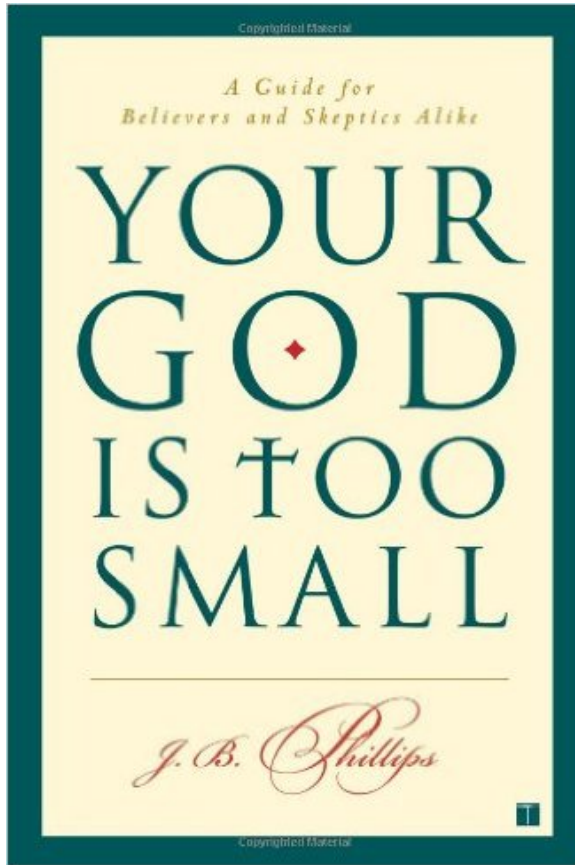
When we think we can make God understandable we are on dangerous ground, and our god is too small.



When we think we can make God understandable we are on dangerous ground, and our god is too small.

suffering

saying that I understand God is to say that I have put God in a box and that makes me an idolater without a true picture of God or suffering



When we think we can make God understandable we are on dangerous ground, and our god is too small.

saying that I understand **suffering** is to say that I have put God in a box and that makes me an idolater without a true picture of God or suffering

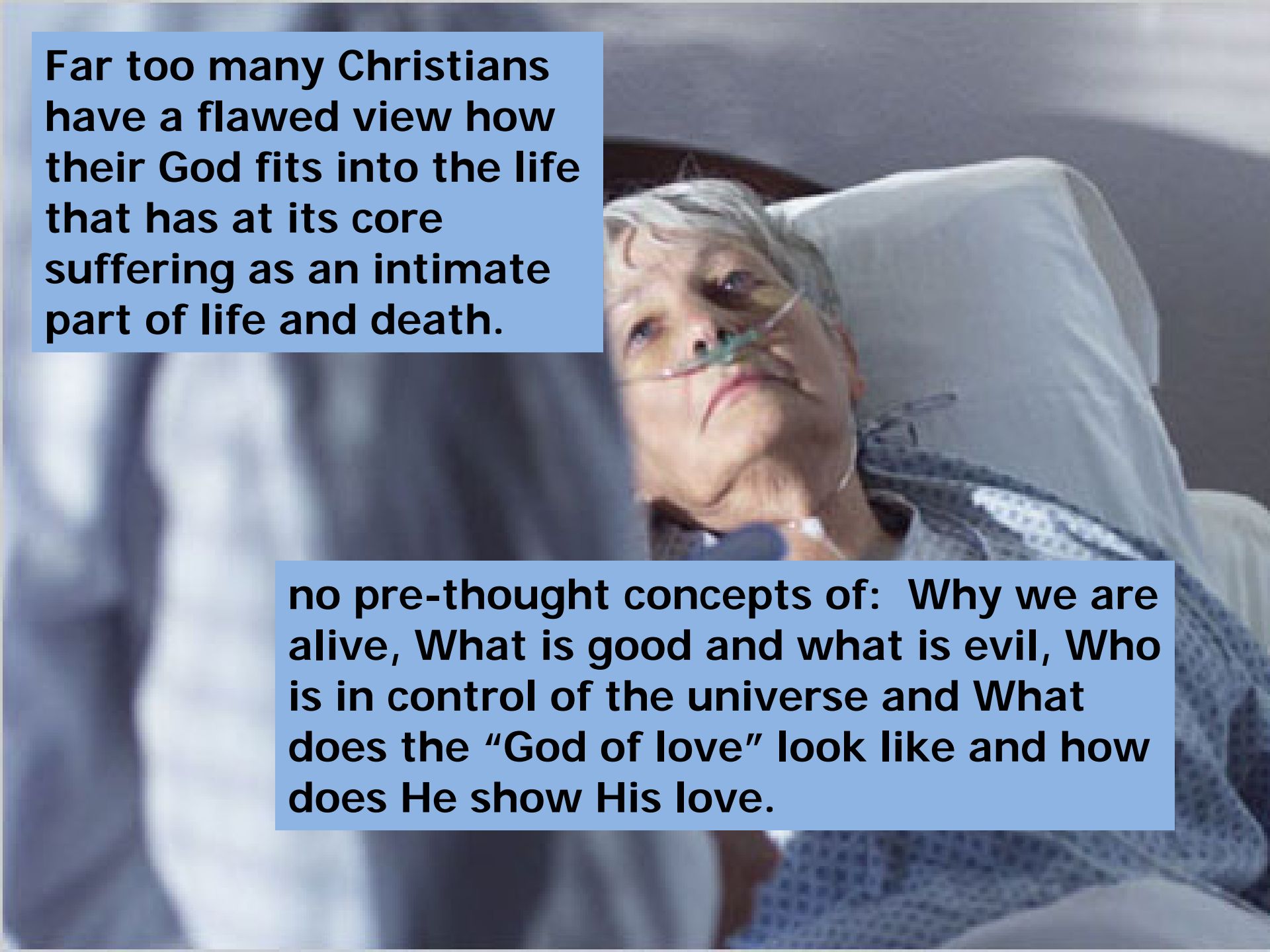
"Toward a Biblical and God Centered Understanding of the Role of Suffering."

**“Toward a Biblical and God Centered Understanding
of the Role of Suffering.”**



The first theological discussion

Far too many Christians have a flawed view how their God fits into the life that has at its core suffering as an intimate part of life and death.



no pre-thought concepts of: Why we are alive, What is good and what is evil, Who is in control of the universe and What does the "God of love" look like and how does He show His love.

secretly hope that if they were faithful that God would just have them die in their sleep after a good normal day of life.

"How could I be suffering?"

A failure to develop and move toward God Centered Understanding of the Role of Suffering that accurately reflects the true relationship we have with our God and the kind of love that we have and desire with our God.



“Toward a Biblical and God Centered Understanding of the Role of Suffering.”

I do not believe anyone is able to totally wrap their head around suffering, but I do believe that we need to be making movement toward a fuller understanding of suffering before we are in the midst of suffering so the time between the initial shock of the onslaught of suffering and the time of stability and living comfortably in faith in the midst of suffering is less.



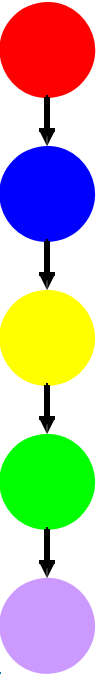
“I understand suffering and why it exists”

Lesson 11



going to go to Jerusalem
suffer and die

³² He spoke plainly about this, and Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.³³ But when Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, he rebuked Peter. "Get behind me, Satan!"... "You do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns."



CONNECT the DOTS

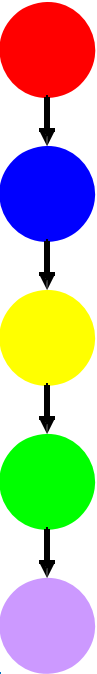
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Normal part of Kingdom

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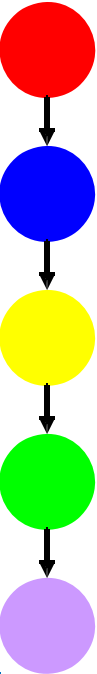


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Suffering will have
meaning

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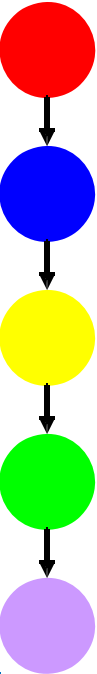
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Not one of the disciples initially could believe what had happened when Jesus suffered and died.



CONNECT the DOTS



**This is a problem that we have to
address and start with this morning.
Can suffering horrible things,**

could the death of a loved one,

**could what looks like terrible evil or
bad thing**

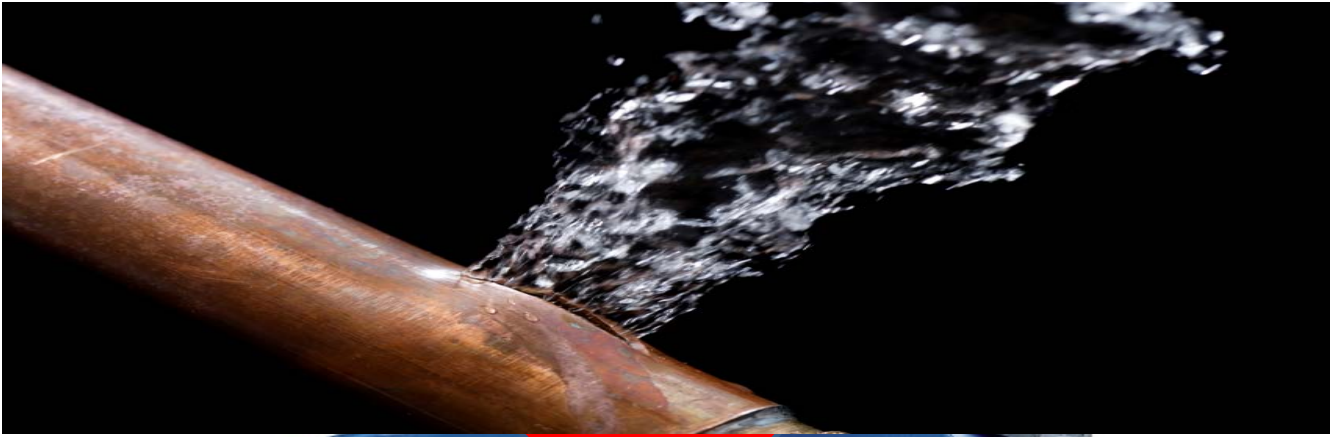
somehow be a good thing?







Now the first thing that we have a tendency to do is decide that it is my business to determine if what is in the bucket a blessing or a curse. Is it good or bad? Is it from God or from Satan?





**God opened a
door to share
life with the
neighbors**



God opened a door to share life with the neighbors

Satan was really attacking you and disrupting your event



Did the broken pipe come from Satan or God? That is our first reaction as fallen people. Is it from God or is it from Satan. Was it a good thing or a bad thing. Was it blessing or attack. Somehow our first reaction is to think we must be about the business of figuring out what is good and bad.



Is it really our job to decide if things are good or bad?

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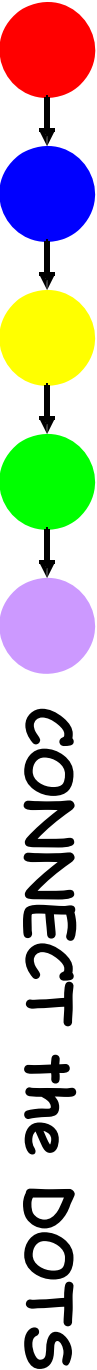
Lesson 2



Lesson 2



⁵ "For God knows that when you eat from it (the forbidden tree) your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."





⁶ 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. ⁷ 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.



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Immediately after they ate of the fruit they begin the business of deciding what is right or wrong, and thinking that they are the ones who must solve the problem of those things that are wrong.



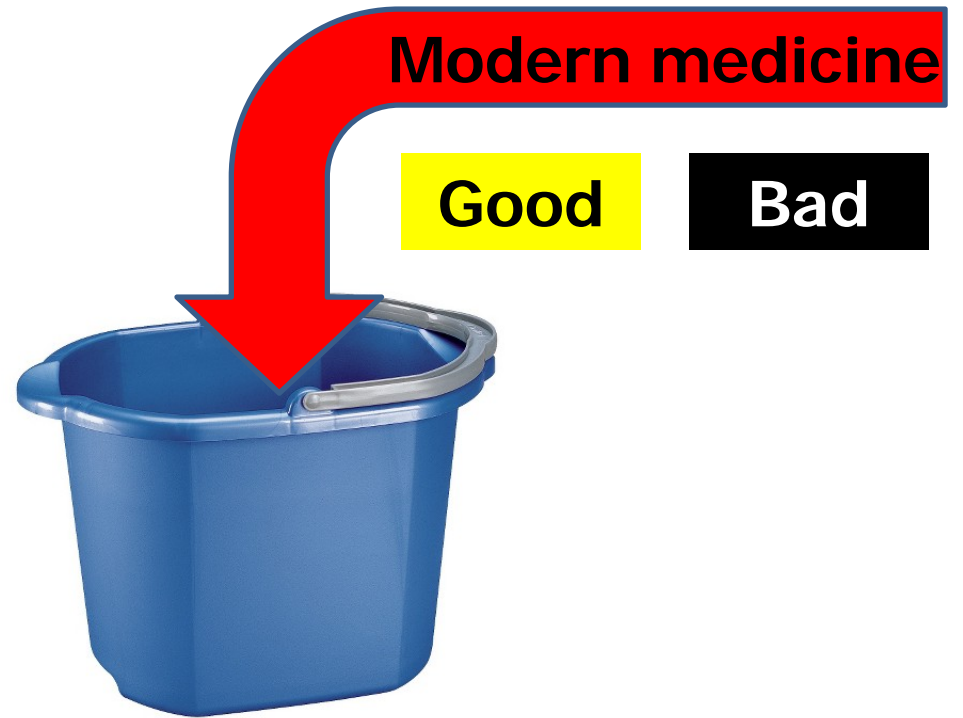
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Death

Sickness







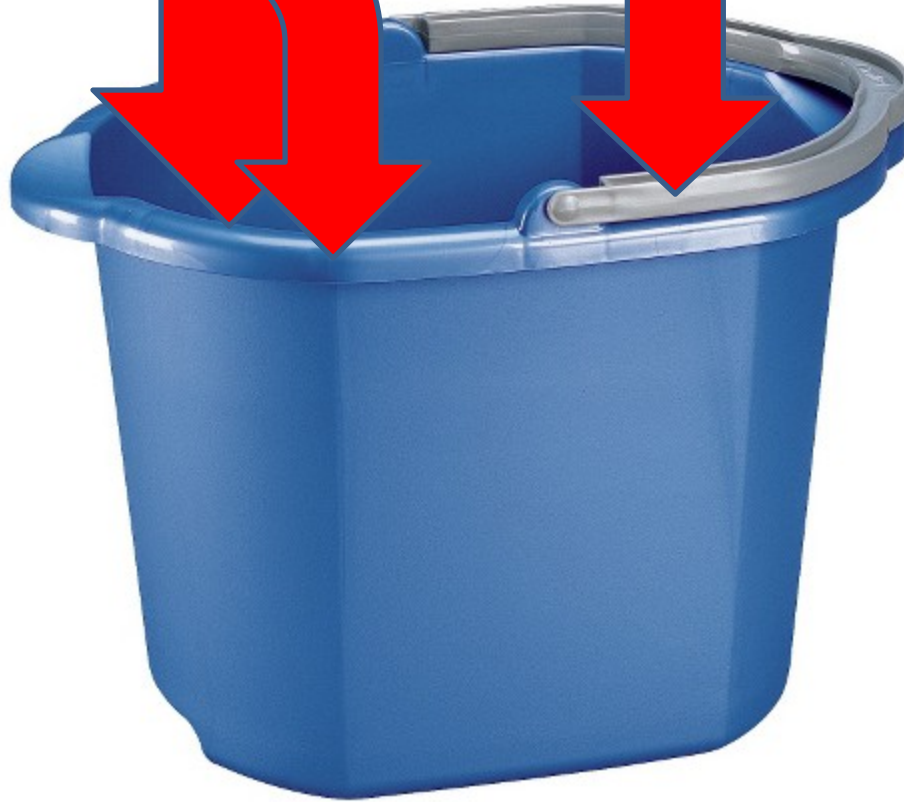
Surgery or not?

We are so blinded by the sin of our sinful nature that we many times have not even paused to ask if God might have a will that is for our good in the midst of what we have determined to be bad.

Death

Sickness

Job loss

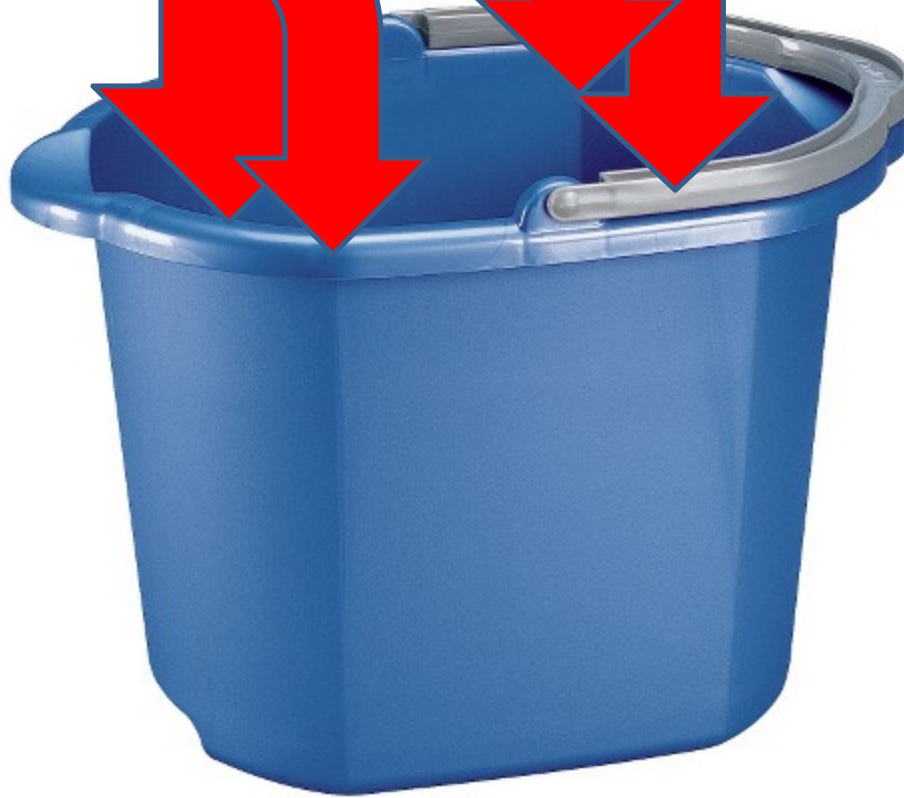


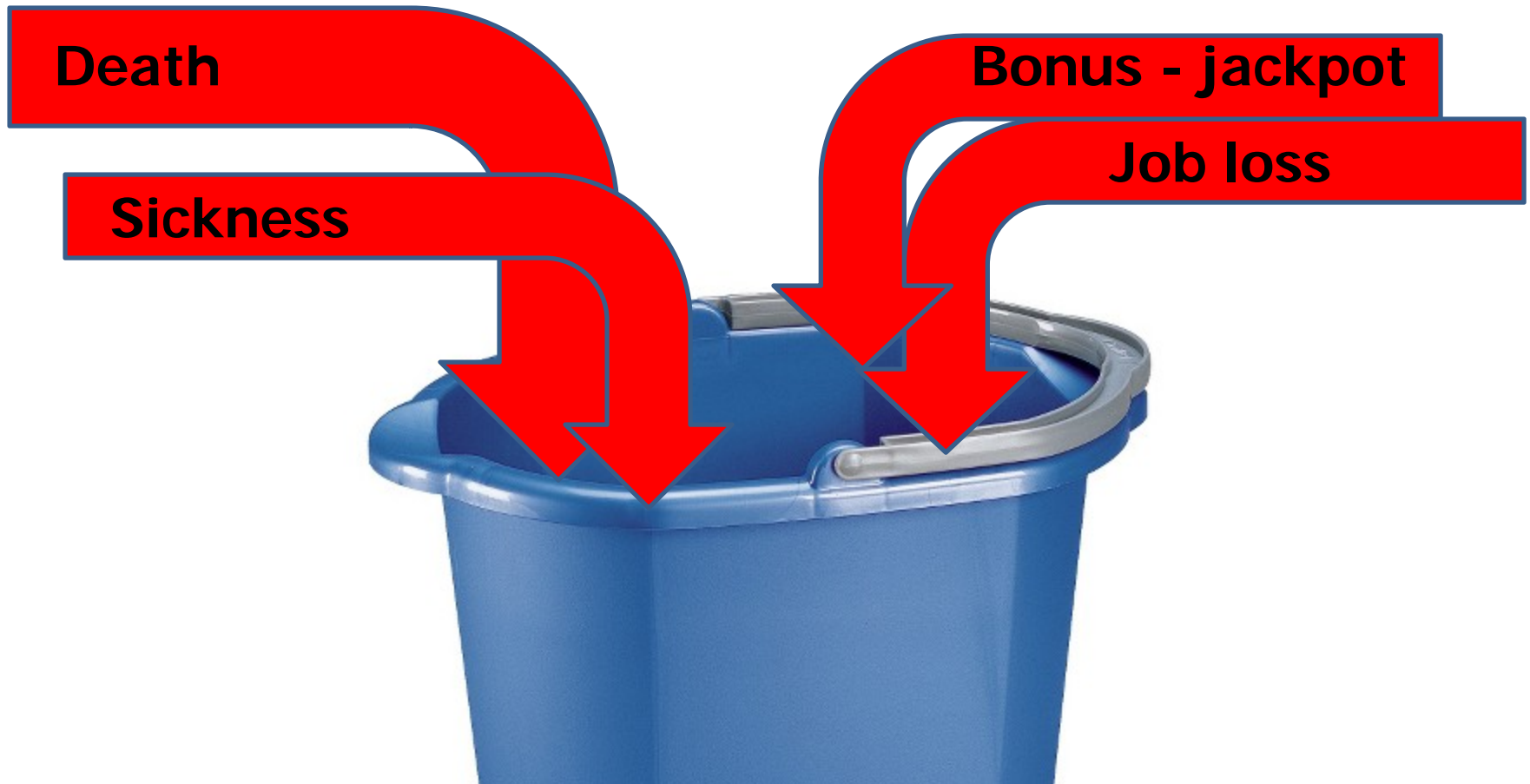
Death

Bonus - jackpot

Sickness

Job loss





Our business is to keep our eyes on God and listen carefully to what His desires are in this situation. Our business is to remember His love and our relationship to Him and to glorify him and serve him in what he reveals to us about his will for our lives.

“Toward a Biblical and God Centered Understanding of the Role of Suffering.”

It may seem like a strange place to start the conversation about suffering, but we must get over the idea that we are capable, separate from God, to decide what is good and bad. That is not our job. And quite frankly God often does not disclose what is good and bad. In fact in one setting something can be good and in another setting it can be bad. That is not our business. It is God’s business to make that decision.



We also need to be careful not to think that we know why suffering has come into our lives.



We also need to be careful not to think that we know **why** suffering has come into our lives.

Many reasons **why** suffering might enter our lives.



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Many reasons **why** suffering might enter our lives.

If God

If God .





God wants us to become so mature and stable that we act right even when none of our circumstances are good. There are different levels of faith, and most of the time we want to use our faith to get rid of a problem. But sometimes God's plan is for us to exercise a higher level of faith that will carry us through life's challenges. This requires even greater faith than being delivered from a situation.

Joyce Meyers



"But pain insists upon being attended to. God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our conscience, but shouts in our pains: it is His megaphone to rouse a deaf world."

~ C.S. Lewis



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Disobedience

Distractions

Deafness to Word

Pride, Rebellion, Selfishness and Independence



To Purify and Test Your Faith

Pure gold put in the fire comes out of
it *proved* pure; genuine faith put through
this suffering comes out *proved* genuine. 1
peter 1:7 MSG

To Build Compassion



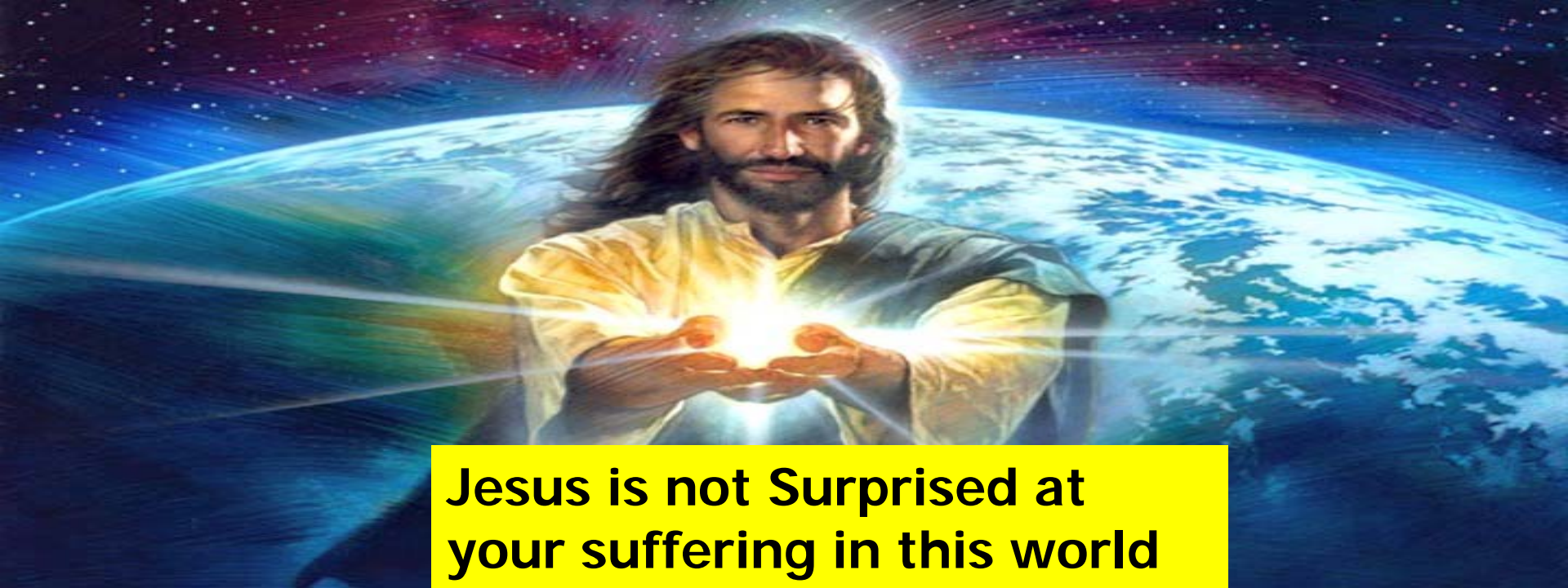
¹⁵ We have a chief priest who is able to sympathize with our weaknesses. He was tempted in every way that we are, but he didn't sin Heb 4:15 GW

So we can walk with others and encourage them

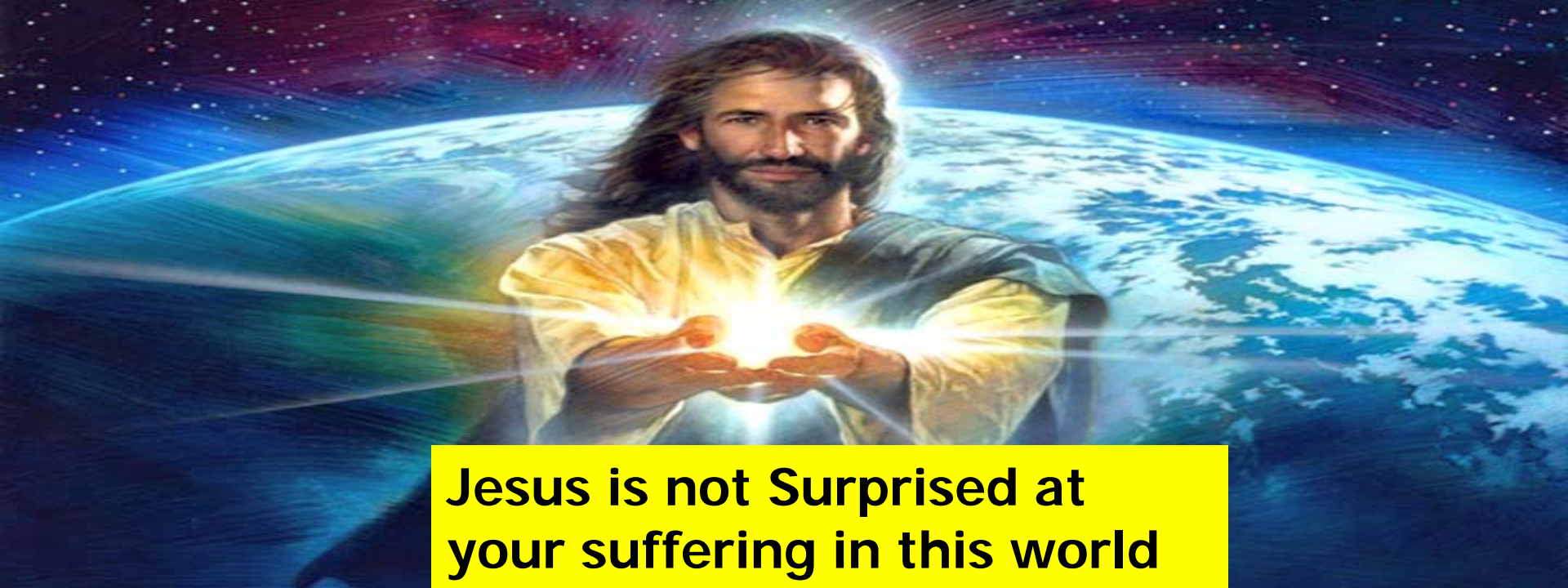
To Encourage Others

¹² I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that what happened to me has helped to spread the Good News.



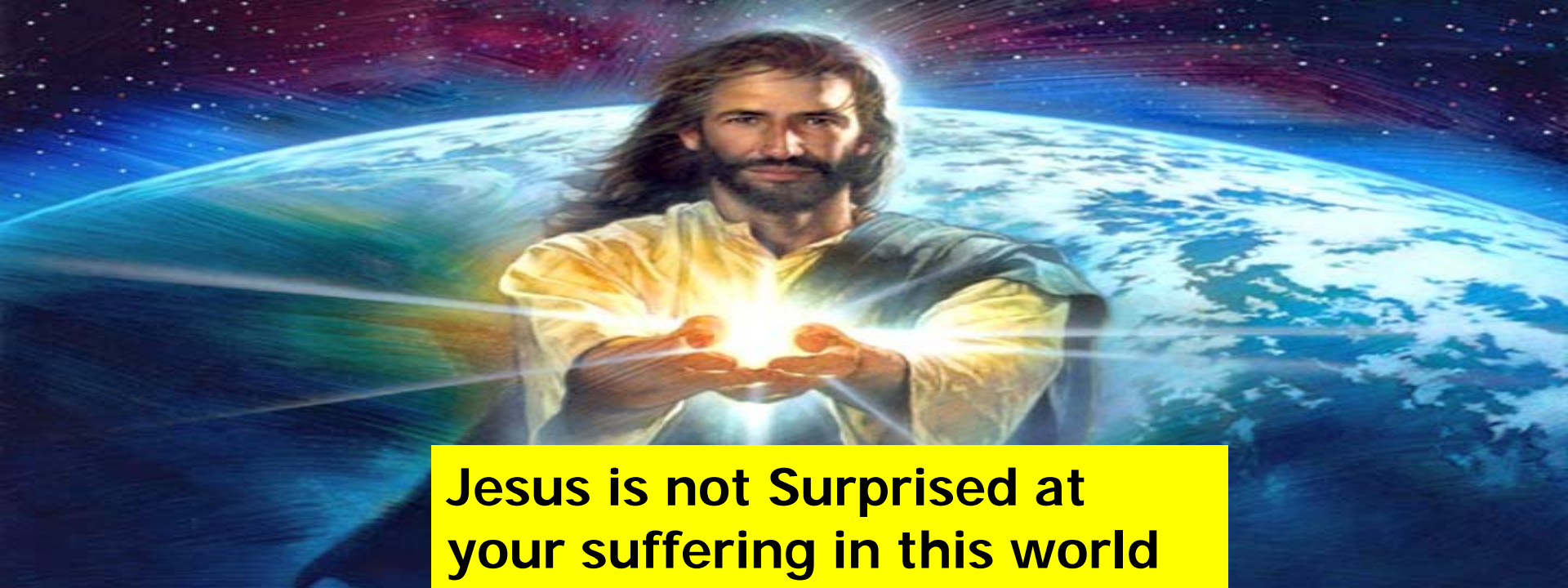


**Jesus is not Surprised at
your suffering in this world**



**Jesus is not Surprised at
your suffering in this world**

**³³ I've told you this so that
my peace will be with you.
In the world you'll have
trouble. But cheer up! I
have overcome the world."
john 16:33**



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**The eyes of the LORD are toward the righteous,
and his ears toward their cry. Psalm 34:15**

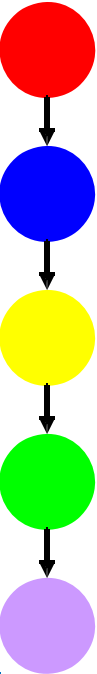
Lesson 11



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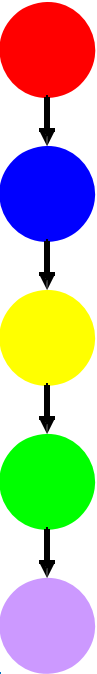


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“Toward a Biblical and God Centered Understanding of the Role of Suffering.”

Normal part of Kingdom

**Suffering will have
meaning**

“Toward a Biblical and God Centered Understanding of the Role of Suffering.”

Unless God reveals it we will not know if a suffering event is Good or Bad, so treat it as if God is wanting to accomplish something and Satan is also wanting to also accomplish something. Choose to focus on God and your relationship to him not the task of determining if Good or Bad, and trying to find out why you are suffering.

Normal part of Kingdom

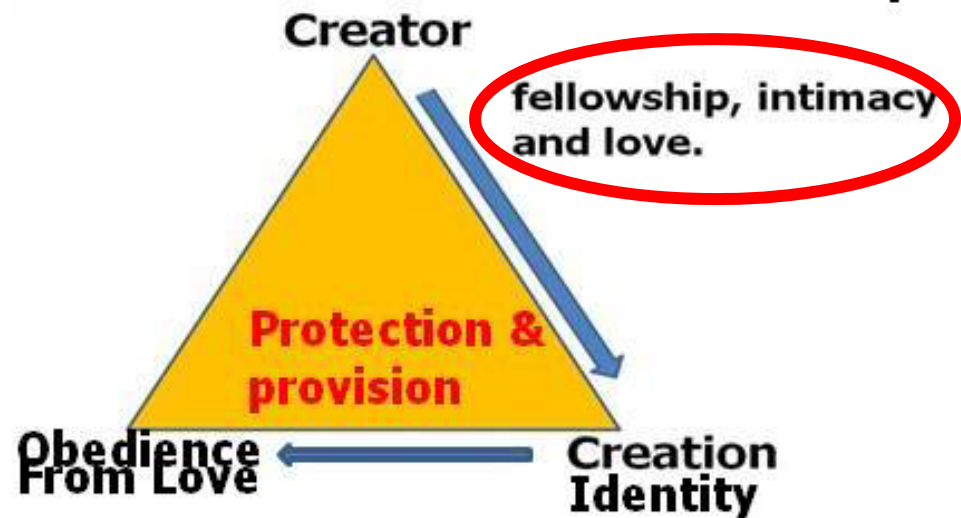
Suffering will have meaning

"Toward a Biblical and God Centered Understanding of the Role of Suffering."

Normal part of Kingdom

Suffering will have meaning

God's Plan for Covenant relationship



"Toward a Biblical and God Centered Understanding of the Role of Suffering."

Normal part of Kingdom

Suffering will have meaning

God's Plan for Covenant relationship
Creator



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"Toward a Biblical and God Centered Understanding of the Role of Suffering."

Be Prepared



"Toward a Biblical and God Centered Understanding of the Role of Suffering."

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"When I am Gone" 2012

“Toward a Biblical and God Centered Understanding of the Role of Suffering.”

Be Prepared

“Our ‘make believe’ song and video seems to be coming true. Some call it life imitating art. I don’t. I call it God. He knew I would need her to tell me goodbye... not just once, but a thousand times. And I’d need to know that no matter how much time passes, that she loves me still.”



“When I am Gone” 2012

**A bright sunrise will contradict the heavy fault that
weighs you down
In spite of all the funeral songs
The birds will make their joyful sounds
You wonder why the earth still moves
You wonder how you'll carry on
But you'll be okay on that first day when I'm gone**



Dusk will come with fireflies and whippoorwill and
crickets call
And every star will take its place
And silvery gown and purple shawl
You'll lie down in our big bed
Dread the dark and dread the dawn
But you'll be alright on that first night when I'm gone

**You will reach for me in vain.
You'll be whispering my name
As if sorrow were your friend
And this world so alien
But life will call with daffodil
And morning glorious blue skies
You'll think of me some memory
And softly smile to your surprise
And even though you love me still
You will know where you belong
Just give it time we'll both be fine
When I'm gone.**



Video When I am Gone By Joey and Rory Feek

YouTube Link to video:

[When I'm Gone —](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xcpjSMmWUDw>