

Where Is God When It Hurts?

by Philip Yancey

Faith in a personal God can be a solid foundation for enduring suffering.

Scripture: Psalm 34:18

Topics: "Suffering And Pain", "Faith And Trust"

Description

Philip Yancey delves into the profound topic of pain, highlighting the ultimate solution found in God's recreation of the earth. He emphasizes the sustaining power of faith in the hope that God, as a compassionate Physician, feels the suffering of every individual. Yancey shares how his anger towards pain diminished as he experienced God's joy, love, and goodness, affirming God's trustworthiness. Ultimately, he concludes that knowing God is invaluable, providing unwavering faith even in the face of intense suffering.

Transcript

The problem of pain will have no ultimate solution until God recreates the earth. I am sustained by faith in that great hope. If I did not truly believe that God is a Physician and not a Sadist, and that he, in George MacDonald's phrase, "feels in Himself the tortured presence of every nerve that lacks its repose," I would abandon all attempts to plumb the mysteries of suffering.

My anger about pain has melted mostly for one reason: I have come to know God. He has given me joy and love and happiness and goodness. They have come in unexpected flashes, in the midst of my confused, imperfect world, but they have been enough to convince me that my God is worthy of trust. Knowing him is worth all enduring.

Where does that leave me when I stand by a hospital bed the next time a close friend gets Hodgkin's disease? After all, this search started at a bedside. It leaves me with faith in a Person, a faith so solid that no amount of suffering can erode it.

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