

When God Doesn't Make Sense



**What do you do when you don't
understand what God is doing?**

Three Things to Remember

1) Doubt is God's Invitation to Deepen Your Faith

Doubt refers to wavering, hesitating, or being double-minded about trusting God and His word.

² How long, Lord, **must I call for help,**
but you do not listen?
Or cry out to you, “**Violence!**”
but you do not save?

³ Why do you make me look at **injustice**?
Why do you **tolerate wrongdoing**?
Destruction and violence are before me;
there is strife, and conflict abounds.

Habakkuk 1:2-3

Therefore the **law is paralyzed,**
and justice **never** prevails.
The wicked hem in the righteous,
so that **justice is perverted.**

Habakkuk 1:4

Complaining – Speaking against God's ways or character in a spirit of pride, entitlement, or bitterness – not just asking why, but accusing Him of wrong.

² Then the whole congregation of the children of Israel **complained** against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. ³ And the children of Israel said to them, “Oh, that we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt,

**when we sat by the pots of meat and
when we ate bread to the full!** For you
have brought us out into this wilderness
to kill this whole assembly with hunger.”

Exodus 16:2-3

Heart Posture of a Complainer

Defiant, distrustful, and self-focused

**They are unwilling to submit to or look
for God's purposes.**

**Seeking – Bringing your confusion, pain,
or lack of understanding before God –
humbly and with a desire to trust Him –
even when it's hard.**

¹⁷ Then one of the crowd answered and said, “Teacher, I brought You my son, who has a mute spirit. ¹⁸ And wherever it seizes him, it throws him down; he foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth, and becomes rigid. So I spoke to Your disciples, that they should cast it out, but they could not.”

...^{22b} **But if You can do anything,** have
compassion on us and help us.”

²³ Jesus said to him, **“If you can believe,**
all things are possible to him who
believes.”

²⁴ Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, “**Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!**”

Mark 9:17-18, 22b-23

Heart Posture of a Seeker

Humble, open-handed, still trusting God's character **while** acknowledging weakness and confusion.

They want to **know and trust** God more deeply.

**Faith isn't the absence of struggle, but
bringing our struggles to the Lord.**

⁵ **“Look at the nations and watch—
and be utterly amazed.**

**For I am going to do something in your
days
that you would not believe,
even if you were told.**

⁶ **I am** raising up the Babylonians,
that ruthless and impetuous people,
who sweep across the whole earth
to seize dwellings not their own.
⁷ They are a feared and dreaded people;
they are a **law to themselves**
and **promote their own honor**.

Habakkuk 1:5-7

**Where do you go when God allows you
to suffer and go through trials and
tribulations?**

Three Things to Remember

1) Doubt is God's Invitation to Deepen Your Faith

2) Suffering Should Be the Expectation

Following Christ entails a **complete and total surrender** of your own desires and expectations to the **higher purpose of serving God's glory.**

³⁴ When He had called the people to Himself, with His disciples also, He said to them, “Whoever desires to come after Me, **let him deny himself**, and take up his cross, and follow Me. ³⁵ For whoever desires to **save his life will lose it**, but whoever **loses his life for My sake** and the gospel’s will save it.

³⁶ For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul?

³⁷ Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?

Mark 8:34-37

Until we **embrace the suffering** that so many Christians embrace around the world, we're not going to have an **unstoppable Church**. The enemy is fighting so hard to keep us from reaching that place, because once we get there, he has no foothold.

-Francis Chan
Letters to the Church

Unstoppable Church

Open and Authentic
Sacrificial Living
Full of the Spirit
Led by the Spirit
Mission > Preference

Living in Community
Generous in All Things
Deep Relationships
Vulnerable
Based on Prayer

Jesus loved so deeply that He was willing to suffer a lifetime of rejection, physical punishment and torture, and a separation from the Trinity when He became our sin.

Faith sometimes looks like **waiting and trusting that God sees, knows, and will act righteously even if it doesn't seemingly make sense to us.**

Three Things to Remember

1) Doubt is God's Invitation to Deepen Your Faith

2) Suffering Should Be the Expectation

**3) Worshiping in the Dark Delights the Heart
of God**

¹⁷ Though the fig tree **does not** bud
and there are **no grapes on the vines,**
though the **olive crop fails**
and the fields produce **no food,**
though there are **no sheep in the pen**
and **no cattle in the stalls,**

¹⁸ yet I will rejoice in the Lord,
I will be joyful in God my Savior.

¹⁹ The Sovereign Lord is my strength...

Habakkuk 3:17-19a

Worship reminds us of who God is.

Worship **changes us by softening our hearts, filling us with joy, gratitude, humility, and it strengthens our faith.**

**Worship invites the Holy Spirit to work in
and among us.**

**Worship declares our trust and hope in
God even in impossible circumstances.**

Worship is what we were made for.

**Our lives are not about us. They should
proclaim His glory.**

“Well people need Jesus. I already have Jesus, so if I die but they get Jesus, it’s a win.”

- Elli “I’m Fine” Rife