

How Does God Respond To Our Suffering?



**Minimized celebrations:
graduations, proms, weddings**

Socially Distanced Funerals

Ahmaud Arbery
Breonna Taylor
George Floyd

Election 2020

**Your 2020
losses and pain**

Psalm 86:1,3

Hear, O LORD, and answer me, for I am poor and needy.

Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I call to you all day long.

Psalm 55:17 (ESV)

Evening and morning and at noon

I utter my complaint and moan, and He hears my voice.

Exodus 34:6-7

The LORD, the LORD, the *compassionate* and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin.
Yet He does not leave the guilty unpunished ...

Compassionate

a sympathetic consciousness of other's distress
with a desire to alleviate it

Elijah

1 Kings 19

**It's significant to notice that (the psalmists)
don't simply cry out in a scream of pain.
They cry out to God who hears, who cares, who draws near,
who helps. We can speak to our God.
May you cry out to our God. He calls you His friend.
He deeply cares for you. He is your Savior. Trust Him.
He has walked down this road before you.
He promises to walk with you in this.**

David Powlison

"Open Letter to the Suffering Christian"

Job

2 Corinthians 4:8-10

**We are hard pressed on every side,
perplexed,
persecuted,
struck down,
but not crushed;
but not in despair;
but not abandoned;
but not destroyed.**

**We always carry around in our body
the death of Jesus, so that
the life of Jesus may also be
revealed in our body.**

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Martha and Mary

John 11

Isaiah 63:9a

**In all their distress (NIV)
suffering (HCSB)
affliction (ESV)
troubles (CJB)**

**He (the LORD) was distressed
suffered
was afflicted
was troubled ...**

Matthew 1:23

The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him – Immanuel – which means, “God with us.”

Immanuel
God with us

The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate God ... Immanuel, God With Us

- No shortcuts in suffering
- Honesty
- Cry out to God
- Ask for help
- **Psalm 86:17** – a sign of God's goodness
- **Psalm 92:2** – proclaim His love ... and declare His faithfulness

**To reflect on your blessings
is to rehearse God's accomplishments.**

**To rehearse God's accomplishments
is to discover His heart.**

**To discover His heart is to discover not just good gifts,
but the Good Giver.**

Max Lucado

God Will Carry You Through

How does God respond to our suffering?

**The LORD, the LORD,
the compassionate and gracious God
is Immanuel.**

He stands with us.