

Be Reformed – Open the bible: study, dig and ask what the main point of the passage is

Be Charismatic – Expect the Holy Spirit: ask God to speak, minister, build up and lead us to maturity

Be Community – Love God's people: share vulnerably, apply, pray and build each other up

Be Missional – Win the world: apply lessons to outreach, make content accessible to non-Christians

These questions were raised during a CG Leaders' meeting as questions commonly asked around this topic. The answers here are a quick reply to the questions.

Common Questions 31 Oct 2010 – Can Jesus Heal My Pain?



Peace, guilt and shame.

Peace, guilt and shame for the believer are very different from what these concepts mean to an unbeliever. For Christians, Jesus is our peace (Eph 2:14), has paid for our guilt (Col 2:14) and has taken away our shame (Rom 10:11). The recognition of this and the internalization of this truth are vital for the healing and reformation of a Christian.

What do I have to do to be healed?

To be guaranteed of complete and eternal healing, we have to be where God is, glorifying and exalting Him, in perfect relationship with Him and in constant communion with Him. In other words we have to be in heaven. "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you shall be saved." We must repent of our sin, receive Jesus as our saviour who died on the cross and declare Him as Lord.

Once we have faith in Christ, our perfection will come either when we die or when Jesus returns.

In the meantime, our glorious hope causes our suffering to take on new meaning. For a Christian, pain becomes 1) the evidence of God's judgment (Psalm 9:3-8), 2) for God's glory (through us, Rom 8), 3) for our discipline and perfection, leading us to righteousness (James 1:2-4), 4) for our reward (2 Cor 4:7-18).

I prayed for so long. Why am I not healed?

God does not promise that long or earnest prayer will result in healing. In this life, Jesus neither promises healing for all ills nor for all people. That will come for the elect in heaven. Jesus promises suffering in this life (John 16:33, 2 Tim 3:12-13, etc.).

How can a loving God allow a non-believing but loving parent, to die when the child is so young?

God is not only loving, but He is just. Pain and death (premature or otherwise) are the result of judgment for sin. Gen 3:14-19, Rom 5:12, Romans 8:18-24. This is not to say that it is some specific sin (we deny karma, see Matthew 9) but sin in general as a fallen state of creation from the time of the fall, ultimately for the purpose of God's glory. Far more awful things than this have happened because of man's sin. In fact, it would be unloving for God to leave sin unpunished because then there would be no justice. Thus, death and suffering do not contradict the fact that God is loving.

However, this sort of question seems to be much more of a personal emotional issue rather than a Q&A type thing. The way for us to answer this question in a meaningful way (not just words) is to live a life in close relation to the one suffering pain in order to present the attributes of God clearly to them.

If God exists, why do bad things happen?

See above.

Why doesn't Jesus heal me now?

God has His timing for His purposes and His greatest Glory and the greatest good of those who love Him and area called according to His purpose (Rom 8:28). If God is not healing you now, there is something you need to be doing with your pain that glorifies God. Otherwise you will be healed for the glory of God.

Yes, but it's a process.

Why do I still feel pain after I'm a Christian?

Christians feel pain because being a Christian is not about living a painless life (John 16:33). As stated above: In the meantime, our glorious hope causes our suffering to take on new meaning. For a Christian, pain becomes 1) the evidence of God's judgment (Psalm 9:3-8), 2) for God's glory (through us, Rom 8), 3) for our discipline and perfection, leading us to righteousness (James 1:2-4), 4) for our reward (2 Cor 4:7-18).

If God is sovereign, why are there natural disasters?

Natural disasters are part of fallen creation (Rom 8). When man fell all creation fell with him (Genesis 3:14-17, Romans 8:20-22).

Does prayer really work?

Yes it does. It is often that people misunderstand what prayer is that this question arises. God is not our heavenly Santa Claus. Prayer is not for asking for our desires but for asking for God's desires. (James 4:1-10, Matt 6:10, Luke 22:42) In prayer we talk to God and it is we who change to His image, not He who changes into ours. Don't try to bash in a nail with a saw and then turn and ask if the saw is working properly.

Why do bad things happen? Why divorce? Why rape? Why do young children die?

See answers above. Also see caveat above about these questions being personally emotional rather than theoretical.

How can He allow such pain? I've cried out but to no avail.

David cried out because of his suffering just as we did, but David recognized the great hope and comfort in his pain that was the promise of the saviour, Jesus Christ – even before He was born! We too should hope in Jesus and place our hope in Him in the midst of our pain.

Do I have pain because of my sins/wrongdoing?

Mark 9 clearly shows that the concept of karma does not exist. However, it is true that we do often (but not always) reap what we sow in the here and now (Psalm 16:4, Hosea 8:7, Galatians 6:8). Conversely, it may seem that the wicked prosper temporarily (Jer 12:1)

Also, sin in general throughout all time (our personal sin included) is the cause of suffering.

If God loves me, why does he allow me to feel pain? Must I be a Christian for God to heal my pain?

Some accounts of healing involve faith (eg. Mark 5:34). In others it appears that those healed may not have been saved (Luke 17:11-19). God certainly has full authority over the physical world, but since physical healing

is (generally) testimony to spiritual transformation (Mark 2), the answer is generally, yes.

Nevertheless, it is a side issue since the real point is sin. Even if God does heal you, there are countless other ills that could then afflict you after you are healed and ultimately an unsaved (unforgiven) recipient of healing will die and suffer endless and untold torment in hell.

If Jesus died for our sins, why do Christians still feel pain/suffer?

For a Christian, pain becomes 1) the evidence of God's judgment (Psalm 9:3-8), 2) for God's glory (through us, Rom 8), 3) for our discipline and perfection, leading us to righteousness (James 1:2-4), 4) for our reward (2 Cor 4:7-18).

There will be no more pain in heaven (Rev 21).

They will want to know why there is pain in the first place, why they would suffer in the first place. Some people might find it difficult to view themselves differently (i.e. not a victim).

This is where some gospel preaching will come in. The charge sheet is read to the defendant and he may plead innocent, but when the perfect judge declares guilt, who can argue?

Final thoughts

Examine the proofs and claims of Jesus Christ and decide for yourself if He is a lunatic, Satan or God Himself.