

“Why God, why?”

Selected scriptures: Psalm 42:1-2; 34:18; 147:3; Isaiah 55:9; Luke 13:1-5; Rom. 8:18, 35-39; 1 Cor. 2:9; 13:12; 2 Cor. 5:8;

1. If you could only ask God one question, and you were assured of an answer, what would be your question?
2. Have you ever asked God ‘why?’ *[think personal as well as wider]*. How did you get through your particular trial?
3. Steve said: “answers are over-rated” and that “the broken-hearts are not healed by explanations.” Do you agree? How are broken-hearts healed?
4. Read Luke 13:1-5. Some people told Jesus about some Galileans that Pilate had murdered. From Jesus’ response we are given the reason that they brought this event to Jesus’ attention. Essentially, they were asking ‘Why God, why?’ They wanted to know why God had allowed this to happen. What did Jesus say to them? What is the transferrable lesson to us today? *[Jesus chose not to focus on the cause, but on what their response should be. In other words, let us not ask questions of ‘why God?’ but let us make sure that we are right with God as the same might happen to us.]*
5. Steve said that God’s ultimate answer to suffering isn’t an explanation; it’s an incarnation. What did he mean? Dr John Stott wrote: Dr John Stott once wrote:

“I could never myself believe in God, if it were not for the cross ... In the real world of pain, how could one worship a God who was immune to it? I have entered many Buddhist temples in different Asian countries and stood respectfully before the statue of Buddha, his legs crossed, arms folded, eyes closed, the ghost of a smile playing round his mouth, a remote look on his face, detached from the agonies of the world.

But each time, after a while, I have had to turn away. And in (my) imagination I have turned instead to that lonely, twisted, tortured figure on the cross, nails through hands and feet, back lacerated, limbs wrenched, brow bleeding from thorn-pricks, mouth dry and intolerably thirsty, plunged in God-forsaken darkness. That is the God for me! He laid aside his immunity to pain. He entered our world of flesh and blood, tears and death. He suffered for us. Our sufferings become more manageable in light of his.”

Does the Cross bring comfort to you in time of pain?

6. Please pray for the Dennis family, and others that you know who are in need of a touch from God.