

WHY DO YOU STAND FAR AWAY?

Our questions and why we ask them

Psalm 10:1-11

LORD, why do you stand so far away? Why do you hide in times of trouble? Psalm 10:1

“If God is good and powerful...”

“How can you believe in a God who allows suffering?”

Why we ask these questions

...the wicked relentlessly pursue their victims...arrogantly thinks...“I will never be moved...” Cursing, deceit, and violence fill his mouth...His eyes are on the lookout for the helpless...He says to himself, “God has forgotten; he hides his face and will never see.” Psalm 10:2,4,6-8,11

What to do with our questions

Psalm 10:12-18

One thing we should never do...abandon our faith

Rise up, LORD God! Lift up your hand...The LORD is King forever and ever... Psalm 10:12,16

Embrace our God-given resources

- God loves me and is with me
But you yourself have **seen** trouble and grief...you are a **helper** of the fatherless ...LORD, you have **heard** the desire of the humble; you will **strengthen** their hearts. You will **listen carefully**...doing justice for the fatherless and the oppressed... Psalm 10:14,17,18
- Hope...transcendent and realistic
Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Because of his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you. 1 Peter 1:3-4

What to do with our questions

Psalm 10:12-18

- Life-changing love
You rejoice in this, even though now for a short time, if necessary, you suffer grief in various trials so that the proven character of your faith—more valuable than gold which, though perishable, is refined by fire—may result in praise, glory, and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. 1 Peter 1:6-7
- Faith
Though you have not seen him, you love him; though not seeing him now, you believe in him, and you rejoice with inexpressible and glorious joy, because you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls. 1 Peter 1:8-9
- Comfort
All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is our merciful Father and the source of all comfort. He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others. When they are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us...we stopped relying on ourselves and learned to rely only on God, who raises the dead...Then many people will give thanks because God has graciously answered so many prayers... 2 Corinthians 1:3,4,9,11 (NLT)

Lessons I learned along the way

I've never gotten my questions answered

“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, and your ways are not my ways.” This is the LORD’s declaration. Isaiah 55:8

I know God is good...all the time

We know that all things work together for the good of those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. Romans 8:28

I am never alone

...I will never leave you or abandon you. Therefore, we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid... Hebrews 13:5-6

Scripture from the CSB unless noted.