

Praying Through Suffering
Psalm 80

Have you heard the news, everyone's talking
Life is good 'cause everything's awesome
Lost my job, it's a new opportunity
More free time for my awesome community
Everything is awesome.

-The LEGO Movie

Life is tremendously sad...I was alone in my car and a Bruce Springsteen song came on...and I heard it and it gave me a kind of fall, back-to-school-depression feeling and it made me feel really sad and so I went, "Okay, I'm getting really sad," so I had to get the phone and write "Hi" to, like, fifty people... Anyway, I started to get that sad feeling and reached for the phone and then I said, "You know what: Don't. Just be sad. Just stand in the way of it and let it hit you like a truck." So I pulled over and I just cried.

...Because we don't want that first feeling of sad, we push it away with our phones. So you never feel completely happy or completely sad. You just feel kind of satisfied with your products. And then...you die. So that's why I don't want to get a phone for my kids.

-Louis C.K.

HE HONESTLY ACKNOWLEDGES THE PAIN

The anger of God (v. 4)

Deep sorrow (v. 5)

Open hostility (v. 6)

Disaster (v. 12)

“But if you do not obey the Lord your God by carefully following all His commands and statutes...all these curses will come and overtake you.”

-Deuteronomy 28:15

HE REMEMBERS WHO GOD IS

- A. God is a Shepherd (v. 1)
- B. God is gracious (vv. 3, 7, 19)

You planned evil against me; God planned it for good.

-Genesis 50:20

Knowledge of God's character provides stability in the midst of chaotic circumstances.

God is Gracious (vv. 3, 7, 19)

“Restore us, God;
look on us with favor,
and we will be saved.”

-Psalm 80: 3, 7, 19

May Yahweh bless you and protect you;

May Yahweh make His face shine on you and be gracious to you;

May Yahweh look with favor on you and give you peace.

-Numbers 6:24-26

HE PESTERS GOD IN PRAYER

“Restore us, God” (v. 3)

“Restore us, God of Hosts” (v. 7)

“Restore us, Yahweh, the God of Hosts” (v. 19)

2 “There was a judge in a certain town who didn’t fear God or respect man. 3 And a widow in that town kept coming to him, saying, ‘Give me justice against my adversary.’ 4 “For a while he was unwilling, but later he said to himself, ‘Even though I don’t fear God or respect man, 5 yet because this widow keeps pestering me, I will give her justice, so she doesn’t wear me out by her persistent coming.’”

-Luke 18:2-5

“I am the true vine, and My Father is the vineyard keeper...
Remain in Me, and I in you.”

-John 15:1, 4

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away...3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. 4 He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.”

-Revelation 21:1, 3-4

Our ultimate hope in suffering is for the end of suffering—for the restoration of all creation through Jesus.

‘Gandalf! I thought you were dead! But then I thought I was dead myself. *Is everything sad going to come untrue?*’

‘A great Shadow has departed,’ said Gandalf, and then he laughed, and the sound was like music, or like water in a parched land; and as he listened the thought came to Sam that he had not heard laughter, the pure sound of merriment, for days upon days without count. It fell upon his ears like the echo of all the joys he had ever known.

Where do you need to come before God and honestly
acknowledge the pain?

Where do you need to remember who God is?

How can you bring these things to God in prayer today?