

The Next Step is the Most Important

“Not having all answers is a natural part of life that fosters humility, growth and openness.”

So one of the hardest things for me lately has been trying to understand why bad things happen to good, innocent, and/or helpless people. I think it is oftentimes the reason why a lot of people hesitate to commit to a relationship with Christ in the first place. For instance, I saw a video of a young girl who was, at most, in middle school. She had a rare form of skin cancer that had made her skin extremely irritated, made her fingers shrivel up, and had caused much of her hair to fall out. She was making a video explaining her disease, but to my surprise she was extremely vibrant and optimistic about her situation. In fact, about three minutes after explaining her condition, she was beginning to shift to a different subject - completely pivoting from the prior message she was relaying.

In an instant, I had gone from wondering why this girl was being put through such pain to actually sharing a laugh with her about a joke she told. I understood - in that very moment - that if she could let go and not let her disease get to her, we should not let our unknowns get to us either.

I think a lot of times we fully expect God to drop the answer to our problems right in our lap. We expect him to not carry out HIS PLANS, and we often TELL HIM what we want. Well, I am here to let you know that's not how that works. We often want God to explain Himself to us before we put all our trust in him. We want to know why the relationship ended. We ask why

that person had to get sick. We feel the need to inquire why every single opportunity ahead of us has seemingly materialized to nothing. See, that's the thing: having faith doesn't mean you're going to have every answer. Faith means you need to be willing to walk forward even when you don't realize what the next step is.

Job is the prime example of this. He literally had everything taken away from him: his home, family, health.... The list continues on and on. He experienced a type of human suffering that I think everybody would agree is completely (seemingly) unfair. Job wanted answers, and the world gave him answers, but those answers did not come from the mouth of God. Instead, when God finally gave him an answer, it wasn't exactly what Job probably thought. In fact, I bet Job was not completely sure as to the answers that God gave him. That's a harsh reality for most of us, and I am sure it was for Job. Because most of the time the answer we want is *'Here is why this happened,'* but God gives us *'Trust me even though you don't know why this happened'.*

I don't think we're supposed to pretend that suffering doesn't hurt. I actually know that's the case. Even Jesus wept. Even Jesus asked the Father if there was another way that he could fulfill the prophecies. Faith isn't the absence of questions - it's choosing God in the middle of them.

And maybe that's what struck me about the little girl in that video. She didn't have to understand every detail of her condition to laugh. She didn't have to understand what tomorrow would hold to enjoy today. She didn't have to understand what her future held to smile today. She just simply kept on having a great time.

And perhaps we could learn something from that. We often postpone our joy until we have certainty. *"I'll be happy when I know what career I'm going to have. I'll have peace when I know how this situation is going to work out. I'll trust God once He shows me what He's doing."*

But what if peace doesn't come from knowing what happens next?

What if peace comes from knowing **Who walks with us into what happens next?**

GOD BLESS - TY