

HOW TO FIGHT OUR BATTLES



THE BATTLE OF LIES

| 2

DEBUNKING THE COMMON LIE:



“GOD IS NOT GOOD BECAUSE
_____.”



WHAT DOES SCRIPTURE SAY ABOUT GOD BEING GOOD?

Psalms 100:5 (ESV): “For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.”

Numbers 23:19 (NLT): “God is not a man, so he does not lie. He is not human, so he does not change his mind. Has he ever spoken and failed to act? Has he ever promised and not carried it through?”

Malachi 3:6 (NLT): “I am the Lord, and I do not change. That is why you descendants of Jacob are not already destroyed.”

Psalms 34:8 (ESV): “Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him!”

Deuteronomy 32:4 (NIV): “He is the Rock, his works are perfect, and all his ways are just. A faithful God who does no wrong, upright and just is he.”

1 John 1:5 (ESV): “This is the testimony that we have heard from him and proclaim to you: God is light and in him is no darkness at all.”

Hebrews 13:8 (ESV): “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.”

Hebrews 4:14-15 (NLT): “So then, since we have a great High Priest who has entered heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to what we believe. This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses, for he faced all of the same testings we do, yet he did not sin.”

WHAT DOES SCRIPTURE SAY ABOUT MAN BEING GOOD?



NEWS FLASH: IT DOESN'T.

Romans 3:11-12 (ESV): “None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God. All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one.”

Ecclesiastes 7:20 (NIV): “Indeed, there is no one on earth who is righteous, no one who does what is right and never sins.”

Ephesians 2:1-3 (ESV): “And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience — among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.”

LIE 1: “GOD IS NOT GOOD BECAUSE BAD THINGS HAPPEN TO GOOD PEOPLE.”



THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS A “GOOD” PERSON.

- Though we may say in our everyday vocabulary someone is “good,” the truth is nobody is “good,” only God.
- We live in a broken world because of Adam and Eve’s sin which brought sin into the world, tarnishing our relationship [right-standing] with God.
- Because sin is in the world, we as humans are subject to it. We will never be able to be free from the consequences of sin until we enter heaven; however, Jesus provides us with redemption and the guide to help us live righteously while we are on earth.

Romans 5:12 (NLT): “When Adam sinned, sin entered the world. Adam’s sin brought death, so death spread to everyone, for everyone sinned.”

Romans 5:16-17 (NLT): “For Adam’s sin led to condemnation, but God’s free gift leads to our being made right with God, even though we are guilty of many sins. For the sin of this one man, Adam, caused death to rule over many. But even greater is God’s wonderful grace and his gift of righteousness, for all who receive it will live in triumph over sin and death through this one man, Jesus Christ.”

Romans 5:18-19 (NLT): “Yes, Adam’s one sin brings condemnation for everyone, but Christ’s one act of righteousness brings a right relationship with God and new life for everyone. Because one person disobeyed God, many became sinners. But because one other person obeyed God, many will be made righteous.”

James 1:17 (NLT): “Whatever is good and perfect is a gift coming down to us from God our Father.”



HOW DIFFERENT WOULD OUR LIVES LOOK IF WE TRULY UNDERSTOOD THERE IS NO GOOD IN US, AND THAT EVERYTHING GOOD THAT WE HAVE ULTIMATELY COMES FROM GOD?

LIE 2: “GOD IS NOT GOOD BECAUSE I WAS HURT.”



GOD’S GOODNESS IS NOT MEASURED BY THE PRESENCE OR ABSENCE OF SUFFERING.

- It’s easy to associate pain or suffering with the absence of God’s goodness.
- As humans living in a broken and fallen world. We WILL experience loss, injustice, heartbreak, betrayal, hurt, etc. in our lives.
- God never promises us an easy life; however, he provides us with a guide and a foundation to help us overcome the injustices of the world.

THE DOUBLE STANDARD OF HURT:



TOE STEPPER: HURT SHOULDN’T BE USED AS AN EXCUSE TO NOT CONFRONT PAIN/SUFFERING.

SO WHAT IS THE “DOUBLE STANDARD OF HURT?”



THE FACT THAT OFTEN TIMES WE TREAT GOD DIFFERENTLY THAN HOW WE TREAT OTHER THINGS IN OUR LIVES.

HERE'S WHAT I MEAN:



Just because we may have been hurt by someone on our sports team, doesn't mean we give up watching or playing that sport forever – Just because we were in a relationship and we got cheated on, doesn't mean we give up on dating forever – Yet why is it that when it comes to hurt within the church, people are so quick to blame God and often times abandon the faith?



GOD IS NOT DEFINED BY OUR CIRCUMSTANCES.

SO HOW DO WE COMBAT AGAINST HURT?

1 | LEARN THE TRUE CHARACTER AND NATURE OF GOD.

- A better understanding of God's character and nature helps us better understand the world around us.
- A limited view of God and Scripture is often times a driving factor in the Double Standard of Hurt.

2 | CHANGE YOUR PERSPECTIVE.

- Instead of asking, "Why is this happening to me?", we can ask, "How is God working in this?" or, "How is God shaping me through this?"

Romans 8:28 (NIV): "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."

Personal Reflection Questions

- Have you ever questioned God's goodness because of something difficult you went through? What was that experience like?
- What emotions do you feel when facing trials—anger, doubt, sadness? How do you usually respond to pain?
- When you see suffering in the world, how does it impact your faith?

Biblical Reflection Questions

- Read Psalm 34:18 – What does it mean that “The Lord is close to the brokenhearted”? How have you seen or felt God's presence in a hard time?
- Read Romans 8:28 – Does this verse mean that everything in life will feel good? What does it say about God's ability to use painful situations?
- Read John 16:33 – Jesus said we will have trouble in this world. How does knowing He has overcome give us hope?

Challenging the Lie Questions

- Why do you think people often believe that suffering means God isn't good?
- How can we know that God's goodness is not based on our circumstances?
- What are some ways we can remind ourselves of God's faithfulness when we're hurting?

Application Questions

- What is one truth from Scripture that you can hold onto when you're going through a hard time?
- How can we support friends who are struggling and might be questioning God's goodness?
- What's one practical step you can take this week to trust God's goodness, even in difficult situations?