

# THE BATTLE OF LIES

LIE: “**IF WE EXPERIENCE  
HURT & PAIN,** THEN GOD  
MUST NOT BE GOOD.”

# THE TRUTH

**GOD'S GOODNESS IS NOT DEPENDENT ON OUR CIRCUMSTANCES;** IT IS PART OF HIS UNCHANGING CHARACTER. PAIN AND SUFFERING DO NOT MEAN GOD HAS ABANDONED US—THEY ARE OFTEN THE RESULT OF A BROKEN WORLD, BUT HE REMAINS PRESENT, WORKING FOR OUR GOOD.

# THE TRUTH

IT'S EASY TO ASSOCIATE PAIN WITH THE ABSENCE OF GOD'S GOODNESS. WHEN WE FACE HEARTBREAK, LOSS, OR INJUSTICE, WE MIGHT QUESTION: "IF GOD IS GOOD, WHY WOULD HE ALLOW THIS?" BUT **GOD'S GOODNESS IS NOT MEASURED BY THE PRESENCE OR ABSENCE OF SUFFERING; RATHER, IT IS SEEN IN HOW HE SUSTAINS US THROUGH IT, USES IT TO SHAPE US, AND PROMISES THAT ONE DAY ALL PAIN WILL END** (REVELATION 21:4).

## HARD TRUTH 1

EXPERIENCING HURT  
**DOESN'T JUSTIFY YOU**  
**WALKING AWAY FROM GOD.**

## HARD TRUTH 2

TURNING AWAY FROM GOD  
DOESN'T HEAL OUR WOUNDS  
—IT REMOVES OUR GREATEST  
SOURCE OF STRENGTH.

## HARD TRUTH 3

**WE'RE CALLED TO  
PERSEVERE—NOT QUIT—  
BECAUSE GOD'S PROMISES  
REMAIN TRUE.**

## HARD TRUTH 4

**PAIN ISN'T POINTLESS—IT  
REFINES AND STRENGTHENS  
OUR FAITH.**



## **HARD TRUTH 5**

**DEALING WITH HURT  
DOESNT MEAN EVERYTHING  
WILL FEEL GOOD, BUT GOD  
IS ABLE TO BRING GOOD OUT  
OF EVEN THE HARDEST  
SITUATIONS.**

## HARD TRUTH 6

**WHAT WE SUFFER NOW IS  
TEMPORARY COMPARED TO  
THE ETERNAL REWARD  
AHEAD.**

## Scripture to Refute the Lie

Psalms 34:18 - "The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit."

Romans 8:28 - "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."

John 16:33 - "In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

Romans 5:3-5 - "Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit."

1 Peter 4:12-13 - "Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice inasmuch as you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed."

2 Corinthians 4:17 - "For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all."

Revelation 21:4 - "He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."

**PAIN IS REAL, BUT SO IS  
GOD'S FAITHFULNESS.** GIVING  
UP ON HIM IN HARD TIMES  
REMOVES THE VERY HOPE,  
STRENGTH, AND HEALING WE  
NEED THE MOST.

## **PERSONAL REFLECTION QUESTIONS:**

HAVE YOU EVER FELT LIKE GIVING UP ON GOD BECAUSE OF SOMETHING PAINFUL YOU WENT THROUGH? HOW DID YOU HANDLE IT?

HAVE YOU EVER SEEN SOMEONE WALK AWAY FROM GOD BECAUSE OF PAIN? WHAT DO YOU THINK LED THEM TO THAT DECISION?

WHEN YOU'RE HURTING, DO YOU FIND IT EASY OR HARD TO BELIEVE THAT GOD IS STILL GOOD? WHY?

HAVE YOU EVER QUESTIONED GOD'S GOODNESS BECAUSE OF SOMETHING DIFFICULT YOU WENT THROUGH? WHAT WAS THAT EXPERIENCE LIKE?

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 PROMISED THAT WE WOULD HAVE TROUBLE IN THIS WORLD. HOW DOES THAT CHALLENGE THE IDEA THAT A GOOD GOD WOULDN'T ALLOW SUFFERING?

READ JAMES 1:2-4 - HOW CAN SUFFERING ACTUALLY STRENGTHEN OUR FAITH? CAN YOU THINK OF A TIME WHEN A TRIAL HELPED YOU GROW?

READ ROMANS 8:28 - THIS VERSE SAYS GOD WORKS ALL THINGS FOR GOOD. HOW CAN WE HOLD ONTO THAT TRUTH EVEN WHEN WE DON'T SEE THE "GOOD" IN OUR SITUATION?

## **CHALLENGING THE LIE QUESTIONS:**

WHY DO YOU THINK PEOPLE OFTEN BELIEVE THAT SUFFERING MEANS GOD ISN'T GOOD?

WHY DO YOU THINK PAIN MAKES PEOPLE QUESTION GOD'S GOODNESS? HAVE YOU EVER STRUGGLED WITH THAT THOUGHT?

WHY DO YOU THINK WE OFTEN EXPECT LIFE TO BE EASY WHEN WE FOLLOW JESUS OR WHY DO PEOPLE AIM THEIR FRUSTRATION AT GOD WHEN THEY DEAL WITH HURT?

HAVE YOU EVER SEEN SOMEONE WALK AWAY FROM GOD BECAUSE OF PAIN OR HURT? HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT WALKING AWAY FROM GOD WON'T ACTUALLY SOLVE YOUR PAIN?

WHAT ARE SOME LIES YOU'VE BELIEVED ABOUT GOD WHEN YOU WERE HURTING? HOW CAN YOU REPLACE THOSE LIES WITH TRUTH?

## **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 AS A RESULT OF HURT OR PAIN?

WHAT'S ONE PRACTICAL STEP YOU CAN TAKE THIS WEEK TO TRUST GOD'S GOODNESS, EVEN IN DIFFICULT SITUATIONS?