

*The God who
Suffers with us*

John 11:32-37

“The Gospel I Love”

The God who made us

> **We are precious & created for a glorious purpose**

The God who understands us

> **He became one of us to show how much He cares**

The God who died for us

> **He paid the price for our sin, shame & punishment**

The God who lives in us

> **By His Spirit, we have power to overcome sin & evil**

The God who walks with us

> **He is our faithful Companion & our constant Guide**

“The Gospel I Love”

The God who made us

> **We are precious & created for a glorious purpose**

The God who understands us

> **He became one of us to show how much He cares**

The God who died for us

> **He paid the price for our sin, shame & punishment**

The God who lives in us

> **By His Spirit, we have power to overcome sin & evil**

The God who walks with us

> **He is our faithful Companion & our constant Guide**

The God who suffers with us

Can God suffer?

Hosea 11:8-9

“How can I give you up, Ephraim?

How can I hand you over, O Israel?

... ***My heart recoils within me;***

my compassion grows warm and tender.

I will not execute my fierce anger;

I will not again destroy Ephraim ... ”

John 11:33-35

“When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled.

“Where have you laid him?” he asked.

“Come and see, Lord,” they replied.

Jesus wept.

*If God cannot suffer,
then can He love?*

“the essence of the Hebrew faith is that God takes the people of His covenantal love so seriously that **He suffers for their actions**. God "indwells" the Israelites so that He even goes with them into Babylonian exile ... This **capacity to feel for the other in vulnerable love** is **part of what it means to be God.**”

(Dennis Ngien, citing Rabbi Abraham Heschel)

John 11:35-37

... Jesus wept.

Then the Jews said, “**See how he loved him!**”

But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?”

*If God cannot suffer,
then can He love?*

*If God cannot suffer,
then can He love?*

God suffers because God is Love.

“I don't understand many of the things that happened ..., but I know that Jesus did not forsake me. He was in pain when I was in pain. He was in tears when I was in tears. He did not experience joy when I suffered the most.”

(Survivor of 40 years of oppression under Communist rule)

Where was God?

John 11:32

“When Mary reached the place where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, **“Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.”**”

Is that all He could do?

John 11:35-37

... Jesus wept.

Then the Jews said, “See how he loved him!”

But some of them said, “**Could not he** who opened the eyes of the blind man **have kept this man from dying?**”

As we suffer ...

Live on; Carry your cross

Luke 9:23

“Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.”

As we suffer ...

Live on; Carry your cross

Share your story; Declare His Goodness

Job 19:25-26

“For I know that my Redeemer lives,

And He shall stand at last on the earth;

And after my skin is destroyed, this I

know, that in my flesh I shall see God.”

God is good all the time

He put a song of praise in this heart of mine

God is good all the time

Through the darkest night, His light will shine

God is good, God is good all the time.

If you're walking through the valley
And there are shadows all around
Do not fear, He will guide you
He will keep you safe and sound
'Cause He's promised to never leave you
Nor forsake you, and His Word is true.

Lord I may not understand
All the plans He left for me
My life is in Your hands
And through the eyes of faith,
I can clearly see.

God is good all the time

He put a song of praise in this heart of mine

God is good all the time

Through the darkest night, His light will shine

God is good, God is good all the time.

As we suffer ...

Live on; Carry your cross

Share your story; Declare His goodness

Keep doing good, until evil is overcome

1 Peter 4:19

“So then, those who suffer *according to God’s will* should commit themselves to their faithful Creator **and continue to do good.**”

John 11:35-37

... Jesus wept.

Then the Jews said, “See how he loved him!”

But some of them said, “*Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?*”