

Upcoming FUN-Raising Events

Pickleball Tournament

Seasonal Soirée & Auction

Night of Comedy

3-on-3 Basketball Tournament



HOPE
DOWNTOWN

Why FUNraising events? Amidst all our fundraising efforts, we want to ensure we're having fun together as a community.

PICKLEBALL

Tournament



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12
8:00 AM - 6:00 PM

707 10th Ave S, Minneapolis, MN 55415



To Donate
Auction Item(s)



To Pickleball



HALF TRUTHS

GOSPEL CLARITY IN A NOISY WORLD

**LOVE
EQUALS
AGREEMENT**

HALF

**IDENTITY
IS A SECRET
PUZZLE**

**SUFFERING IS
MEANINGLESS**

**CONTROL
IS THE
GOAL**

**MONEY
WILL FIX
THIS**

**CHEAP
GRACE**

TRUTHS

**BE
PERFECT**



Sensitive Content

This media contains sensitive content which some people may find offensive or disturbing

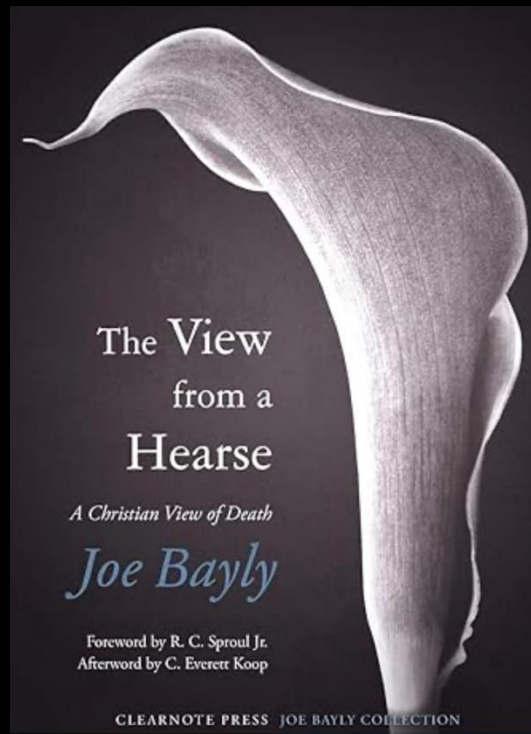


I was sitting, torn by grief. Someone came and talked to me of God's dealings, of why it happened, of hope beyond the grave. He talked constantly, he said things I knew were true.

I was unmoved, except to wish he'd go away. He finally did.

Another came and sat beside me. He didn't talk. He didn't ask leading questions. He just sat beside me for an hour or more, listened when I said something, answered briefly, prayed simply, left.

I was moved. I was comforted.
I hated to see him go.



What does this half truth declare?

Suffering is meaningless!!!

Do everything possible to avoid suffering
and get out from underneath it ASAP if it does happen.

Hard things are in the way of our best life now.

Fear leads to anger

Anger leads to hate

Hate leads to suffering



Fear leads to anger

Anger leads to hate

Hate leads to suffering



And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope.

Romans 5:3-4

1. What part of this is true?

2. Culture | Us | God

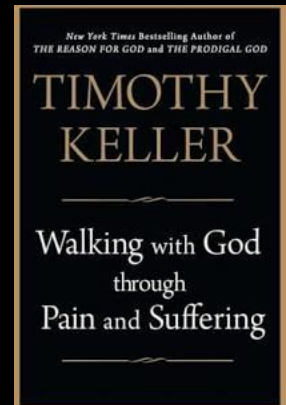
3. No other God like ours

1. What part of this is true?

Life is **pain**, Highness.
Anyone who says differently
is selling something.



At the heart of why people disbelieve *and* believe in God,
of why people decline *and* grow in character,
of how God becomes less real *and* more real to us —
is suffering. (p. 6)



Daniel 3:15-18

¹⁵ Now if you are ready when you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, bagpipe, and every kind of music, to fall down and worship the image that I have made, well and good. But if you do not worship, you shall immediately be cast into a burning fiery furnace. And who is the god who will deliver you out of my hands?"

Daniel 3:15–18

¹⁶ Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered and said to the king, “O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. ¹⁷ If this be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of your hand, O king. ¹⁸ But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up.”

Daniel 3:21–23

²¹ Then these men were bound in their cloaks, their tunics, their hats, and their other garments, and they were thrown into the burning fiery furnace. ²² Because the king's order was urgent and the furnace overheated, the flame of the fire killed those men who took up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. ²³ And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, fell bound into the burning fiery furnace.

But it's like things are in the world.
Hopes fail. The end comes.
We have only a little time to wait now.
We are lost in ruin and downfall,
and there is no escape.



2. Culture | Us | God

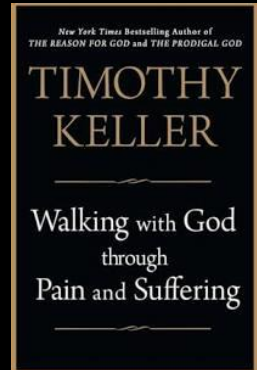
	Moralistic	Self-transcendent	Fatalistic	Dualistic	Secular
Cause	Wrongdoing	Illusion	Destiny	Cosmic conflict	Accident
Response	Do good	Detachment	Endurance	Purified faithfulness	Technique
Resolution	Eternal bliss	Enlightenment	Glory and honor	Triumph of the light	Better society

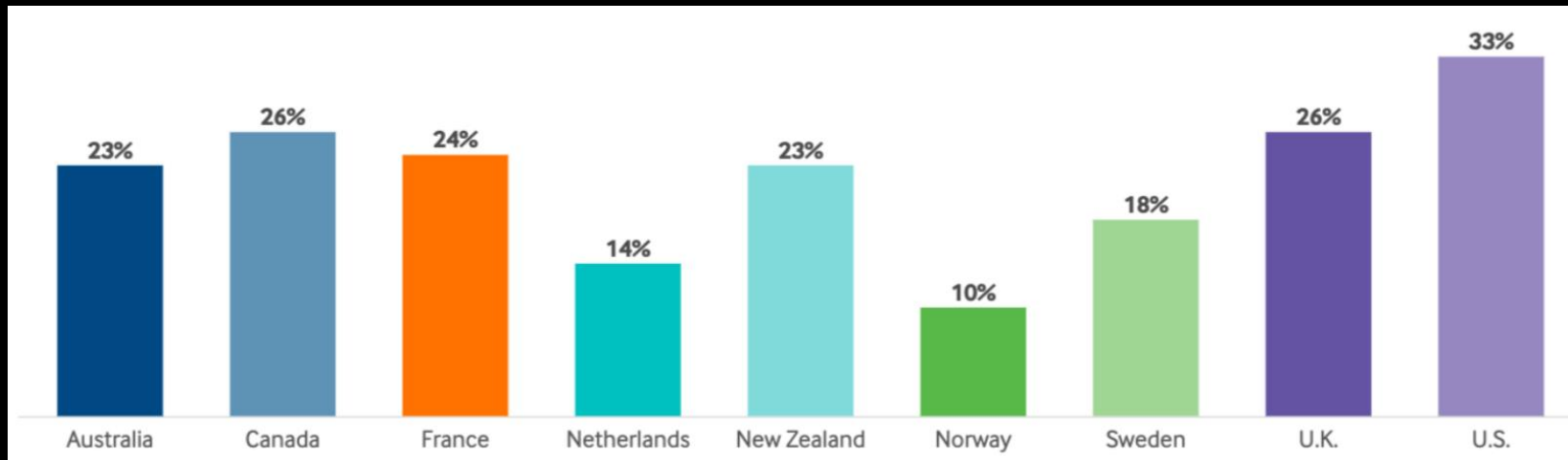
“The total amount of suffering per year in the natural world is beyond all decent contemplation...The universe that we observe has precisely the properties we should expect if there is, at bottom, no design, no purpose, no evil, no good, nothing but pitiless indifference.”

Richard Dawkins
River Out of Eden: A Darwinian View of Life

In the secular view, this material world is all there is. And so the meaning of life is to have the freedom to choose the life that makes you most happy. However, in that view of things, suffering can have no meaningful part. It is a complete interruption of your life story – it cannot be a meaningful part of the story. In this approach to life, suffering should be avoided at almost any cost, or minimized to the greatest degree possible.

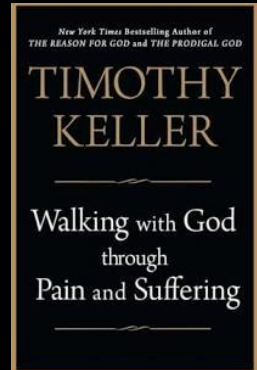
(p. 16–17)



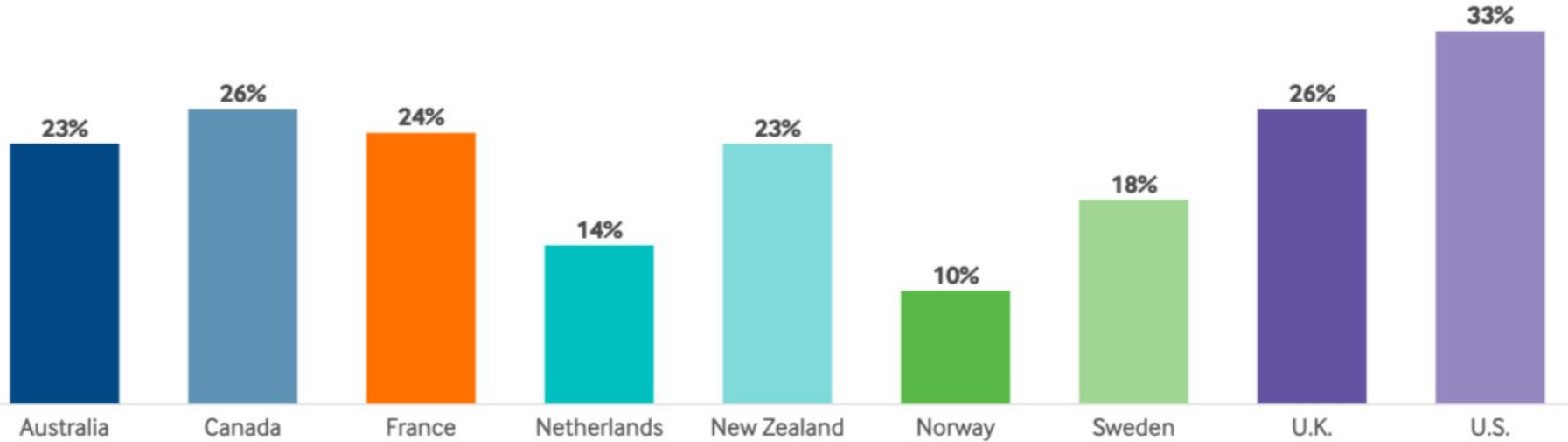


Sociologists and anthropologists have analyzed and compared the various ways that cultures train its members for grief, pain, and loss. And when this comparison is done, it is often noted that our own contemporary secular, western culture is one of the weakest and worst in history at doing so...Our own contemporary Western society gives its members no explanation for suffering and very little guidance as to how to deal with it.

(p. 14, 15)



Percent of adults who reported experiencing stress, anxiety, or great sadness that was difficult to cope with alone since the outbreak started:



In the United States...I
encountered a society that seeks
to avoid pain at all costs.

Patients lived at a greater
comfort level than any I had
previously treated, but they
seemed far less equipped to
handle suffering, and far more
traumatized by it.

Paul Brand, World
Renowned Physician
The Gift of Pain



Genesis 50:20

²⁰ As for you, you meant evil against me,
but God meant it for good,
to accomplish what is now being done,
the saving of many lives.

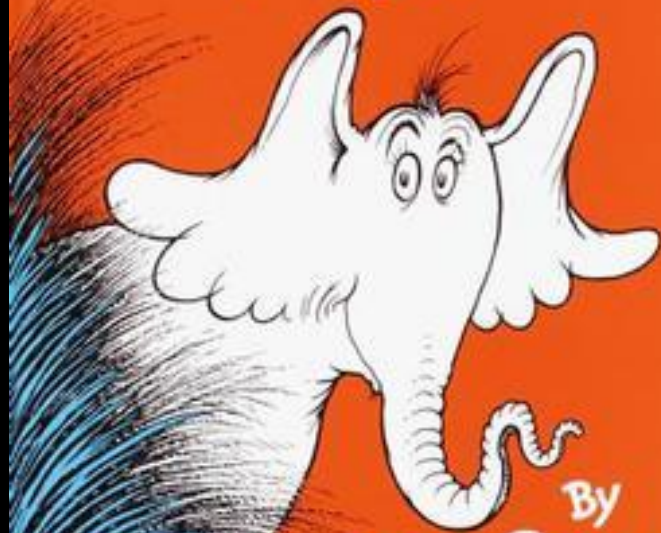
2. Culture | Us | God



Modern discussions of the problem of suffering start with an abstract God – a God who, for the sake of argument, is all-powerful and all-good, but who is not glorious, majestic, infinitely wise, beginning less, and the creator and sustainer of all things. No wonder, then, that modern people are far more prone than their ancestors to conclude that, if *they* can see no good reason for a particular instance of suffering, God could not have any justifiable reasons for it either. If evil does not make sense to us, well, then evil simply does not make sense.

Keller, *Walking with God Through Pain and Suffering*, p. 87

HORTON HEARS A WHO!



By
Dr. Seuss

If God were small enough to be understood,
He would not be big enough to be worshipped.

Evelyn Underhill,
English Anglo-Catholic
writer and pacifist



2 Corinthians 4:17-18

¹⁷ For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, ¹⁸ as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

2. Culture | Us | God

Do you ever wonder if God is going to
“get it right”?

Psalm 34:1-2

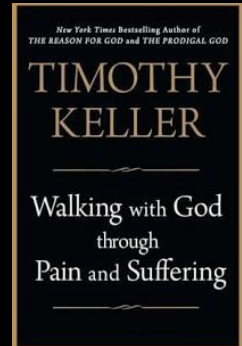
¹ I will extol the LORD at all times;
his praise will always be on my lips.

² I will glory in the LORD;
let the afflicted hear and rejoice.

The graven image...was a God who always acted the way we thought he should...That is a God of our own creation, a counterfeit god. Such a god is really just a projection of our own wisdom, our own self. In that way of operating, God is our “accomplice,” someone to whom we relate as long as he is doing what we want. If he does something else, we want to “fire” him or “unfriend” him...But at the very end, Margaret realizes that the demise of her plans had shattered her false God, and now she was free for the first time to worship the True One...

...When serving the god-of-my-plans, she had been extraordinarily anxious. She had never been sure that God was going to come through for her and “get it right.” She was always trying to figure out how to bring God to do what she had planned. But she had not really been treating him *as* God – as the all-wise, all-good, all-powerful one. Now she had been liberated to put her hope not in her agendas and plans, but in God himself.

(p. 72-73)



You don't know Jesus is all you need
until Jesus is all you have.

3. No other God like ours

Daniel 3:24–29

²⁴ Then King Nebuchadnezzar leaped to his feet in amazement and asked his advisers, “Weren’t there three men that we tied up and threw into the fire?” They replied, “Certainly, Your Majesty.” ²⁵ He said, “Look! I see four men walking around in the fire, unbound and unharmed, and the fourth looks like a son of the gods.” ²⁶ Nebuchadnezzar then approached the opening of the blazing furnace and shouted, “Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out! Come here!”

3. No other God like ours

Daniel 3:24–29

So Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego came out of the fire,²⁷ and the satraps, prefects, governors and royal advisers crowded around them. They saw that the fire had not harmed their bodies, nor was a hair of their heads singed; their robes were not scorched, and there was no smell of fire on them.²⁸ Then Nebuchadnezzar said, “Praise be to the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, who has sent his angel and rescued his servants...²⁹ for no other god can save in this way.”

You meant evil against me,
but God meant it for good,
to accomplish what is now being done,
the saving of many lives.

Is everything sad going to come untrue?

That is what mortals misunderstand.
They say of some temporal suffering,
"No future bliss can make up for it"
not knowing that Heaven, once attained,
will work backwards and
turn even that agony into a glory.

C. S. Lewis
British writer, literary scholar, and Anglican lay theologian
The Great Divorce, p. 64

