



# HALF TRUTHS

GOSPEL CLARITY IN A NOISY WORLD

**BREAKING  
NEWS**



# 1 Corinthians 15:1-4

Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, 2 and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you – unless you believed in vain.

3 For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, 4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures



**“Did God really say?”**



**VS**

**SUFFERING IS  
MEANINGLESS**

**HALF  
TRUTHS**



Unemploy

governmen

NEWS

Oil

fear

PANICKING

Stress

Uncertain

Worry

health care,

tion

certainty

1. What is the kernel of truth?

2. How is this harmful/unhelpful?

3. How does the gospel tell a better story?



# What is suffering?

**The experience of pain or distress, both physical and emotional. Scripture is thoroughly realistic about the place of suffering in the world and in the lives of believers.**

~Martin H. Manser, *Dictionary of Bible Themes: The Accessible and Comprehensive Tool for Topical Studies* (London: Martin Manser, 2009).



**CREATION**



**FALL**



**REDEMPTION**



**RESTORATION**

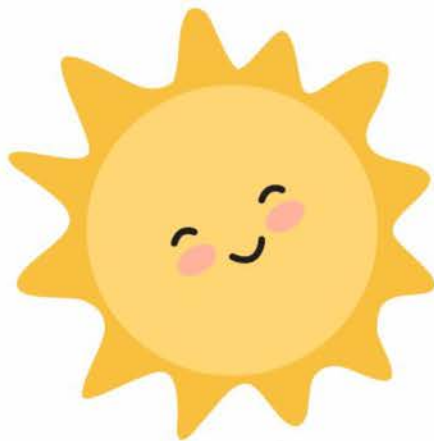
1. What is the kernel of truth?
2. How is this harmful/unhelpful?
3. How does the gospel tell a better story?



**I KNOW MORE THAN YOU**



**Water**



**Sunlight**



**Good Soil**



# Suffering is Meaningless?

“God’s not there.”

“It’s up to me.”

“Comfort = Peace”

A stylized illustration of an arcade machine. The machine has a grey body with a prominent red outline. The screen is black and displays the text "GAME OVER" in a yellow, pixelated font with a blue outline. Below the screen are two green joysticks and two sets of three buttons (red, blue, and yellow) on a grey control panel.

**GAME OVER**

“If God is holy, then He can’t sin. If God can’t sin, then He can’t sin against me. If He can’t sin against me, shouldn’t that make Him the most trustworthy being there is?”



~Jackie Hill Perry, *Holier than Thou*



1. What is the kernel of truth?
2. How is this harmful/unhelpful?
3. How does the gospel tell a better story?

# John 16:33

“I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”



“And now remember this further. Your trial cannot be longer than the lasting power of God’s faithfulness, and mercy, and patience, and power. He will be true to you all through it. His patience will not be exhausted, His power will not come short. You will never be left without God. He will be in all your tomorrows, even as He is in your today, and has been in all your Yesterdays.”

~P.B. Power, “A Book of Comfort for those in Sickness”

# Psalm 56:8

You have kept count of my tossings;  
put my tears in your bottle.  
Are they not in your book?

## 2 Corinthians 4:17

For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.

“You will never really understand your heart when things are going well. It is only when things go badly that you can see it truly. And that’s because it is only when suffering comes that you realize who is the true God and what are the false gods of your lives. Only the true God can go with you through that furnace and out to the other side. The other gods will abandon you in the furnace.”

~Tim Keller, *Walking with God through Pain and Suffering*

## 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, who has been given to us.



“But I can say that I know the One who knows. And I’ve come to see that it’s through the deepest suffering that God has taught me the deepest lessons. And if we’ll trust Him for it, we can come through to the unshakable assurance that He’s in charge. He has a loving purpose. And He can transform something terrible into something wonderful. Suffering is never for nothing.”

~Elisabeth Elliot

# Isaiah 26:3

You keep him in perfect peace  
whose mind is stayed on you,  
because he trusts in you.

# Isaiah 53:5

5 But he was pierced for our transgressions;  
he was crushed for our iniquities;  
upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace,  
and with his wounds we are healed.

## Hebrews 2:9-10

9 But we see him who for a little while was made lower than the angels, namely Jesus, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

10 For it was fitting that he, for whom and by whom all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory, should make the founder of their salvation perfect through suffering.

# Gospel Response

*“God, you are there. I’m not alone. It’s not on me to fix it all. Help me trust you Jesus, even when my pain doesn’t make sense. Give me your perfect peace.”*

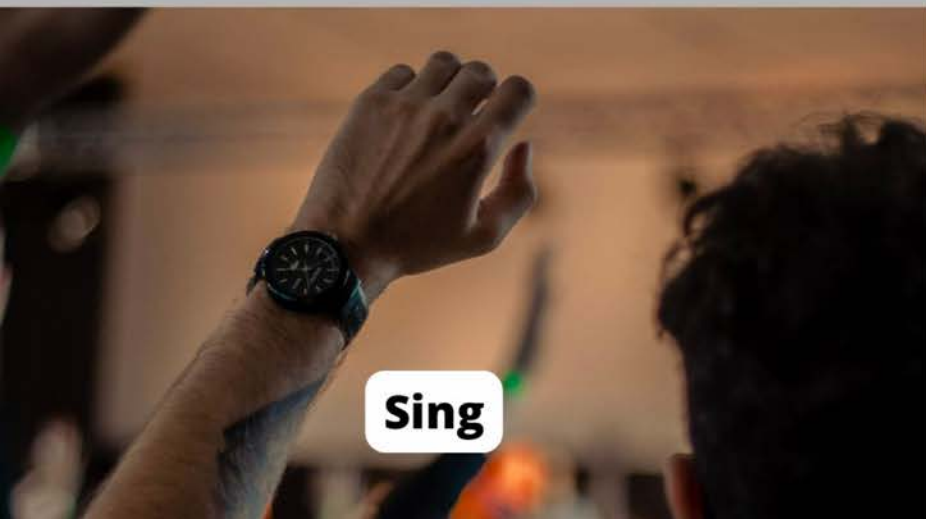
# Communion: Four Ways to Respond to God



**Pray**



**Remember**



**Sing**



**Give**