

Suffering. God, why?

Psalm 22

**Slides from Mike Hood's sermon at the
morning service, Sunday 11th May 2025**

Layer 1: a prayer for God's people to pray

Layer 2: an insight into Jesus's suffering

Our reaction to suffering is actually a reason
to believe in the God we meet in the Bible.

**I
CAN'T
BREATHE**



#GEORGEFLOYD
#ICANTBREATHE
#SAYHISNAME

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This is not OK.

This is not how things should be.

*“To the dumb question,
‘Why me?’ the cosmos barely
bothers to return the reply:
‘Why not?’”*

Christopher Hitchens



detachment

Why not?

karma



Why not?



My God, why?

Our reaction to suffering is actually a reason
to believe in the God we meet in the Bible.

Why not?

My God, why?

Layer 1: a prayer for God's people to pray

Layer 2: an insight into Jesus's suffering

**Jesus's suffering is the reason
we can trust God.**

**Jesus's suffering is the reason
we can trust God.**

Jesus was raised, so we know
God will put everything right.

Jesus was forsaken for us,
so we know God loves us.

Jesus's suffering is the reason
we can trust God.

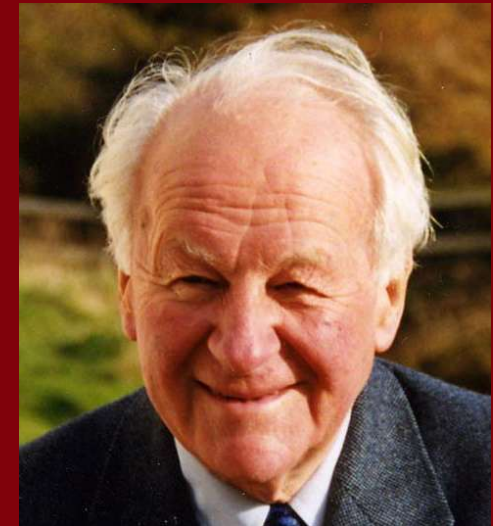
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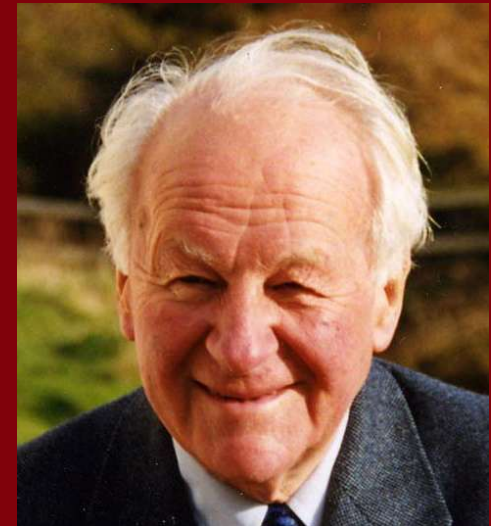
**Jesus was forsaken for us,
so we know God loves us.**

I could never myself believe in God, if it were not for the cross. ... In the real world of pain, how could one worship a God who was immune to it? I have entered many Buddhist temples in different Asian countries and stood respectfully before the statue of Buddha, his legs crossed, arms folded, eyes closed, the ghost of a smile playing round his mouth, a remote look on his face, detached from the agonies of the world.



John Stott,
The Cross of Christ

But each time after a while I have had to turn away. And in imagination I have turned instead to that lonely, twisted, tortured figure on the cross, nails through hands and feet, back lacerated, limbs wrenched, brow bleeding from thorn-pricks, mouth dry and intolerably thirsty, plunged in God-forsaken darkness. That is the God for me! He laid aside his immunity to pain. He entered our world of flesh and blood, tears and death. He suffered for us.



John Stott,
The Cross of Christ

- **Let's explore our questions together.**
- **Let's question God *and* love him.**