

## Don't Die in a Why Me

We gather today under the shadow of a profound question, one that echoes through empty rooms and anxious nights:

"Why?" Why this pain? Why this struggle? Why unanswered prayer? Why Me?

- *A question that threatens to paralyze us, to stop our journey in its tracks.*
- But the message today, drawn from Scripture, is simple yet urgent:
- Don't Die in a "Why!"

Job had everything taken from him by Satan.

- Yet, amid his suffering, he never cursed God.
- God gave Job twice as much as he had before!
- Today, people are still reading Job's story to be encouraged.
- And, God will use your suffering to help others for generations to come.

*Our suffering is not a final destination, but a transition point, a place where God's presence transforms our pain into purpose.*

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### \*\*\*The Comfort That Transcends the "Why"

Our first text is a wellspring of comfort from the Apostle Paul:

**2 Corinthians 1:3-4 - Praise to the God of All Comfort - 3 "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, 4 who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God."**

Life hits us with "whys"—the diagnosis, the loss, the betrayal.

In those moments, we can freeze, demanding an explanation before we take another step.

We can die in that why, letting bitterness and confusion become our tomb.

Paul offers us an alternative.

- He reminds us that God is the God of all comfort.
- He meets us in our anguish.
- The purpose of this comfort isn't just for us to feel better;  
It's a divine transaction.....

God brings us through the valley

- So that we are equipped with empathy and experience -
- Needed to help others *walking the same path*.
- You can become someone else's way out.

*Don't die in the "why." Don't get caught up on why things happened to you.*

- If God has allowed you to go through it, He is **going to use it** to comfort others in their affliction.
- He may never answer your question, but ***He will give you the strength to get through it!***

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**\*\*\*The Testimony That Outlives the Trial**

Next, we look at the life of Job

- His existence became a living testament to the question, "Why me?"
- He lost everything, yet he persevered.
- The very end of his story provides a powerful postscript:

**Job 42:16 "After this, Job lived a hundred and forty years; he saw his children and their children to the fourth generation."**

**Job didn't get all his answers on this side of heaven.**

- He walked through fire and ashes, sustained only by sheer faith.
- The why of his suffering was swallowed up by the faithfulness of God.
- He lived a full life after the trial.

*His story assures us that there is life on the other side of the storm, provided we don't allow the question of why to prematurely end our story.*

- Don't write your story before it's over.
- Job didn't write his life story until 3 years after God restored everything!

**Don't make your conclusion about God when you're in the middle of trouble; wait until it's over.**

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### **\*\*\*The Radiance in the Midst of Resistance**

Our journey then leads us to Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit.

- He faced opposition and false accusations.

The scripture records an extraordinary sight during his trial:

Acts 6:15 - All who were sitting in the Sanhedrin looked intently at Stephen, and they saw that his face was like the face of an angel.

*Stephen's circumstances were hostile, yet his countenance radiated divine peace.*

His focus was not on the injustice of his situation—

- The why of their hatred—but on the presence of God within him.
- *He refused to let the anger and confusion of his accusers dictate his internal reality.*

*He maintained his connection to the divine while facing human malice.*

*God is going to use your wounds to help others.*

- Sometimes, you don't understand why you must go through things...
- But people will see your glowing wounds and turn to God.
- God will not waste your trials.

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### \*\*\*The Martyrdom That Mirrors the Master

**Stephen's story continues, culminating in a powerful, tragic climax:**

**Acts 7:57-60** - At this they covered their ears and, yelling at the top of their voices, they all rushed at him, 58 dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. Meanwhile, the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul.

59 While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, ***"Lord Jesus, receive my spirit."***

60 Then he fell on his knees and cried out, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he said this, he fell asleep.

**Stephen died—not consumed by bitterness over the why of his fate—but in imitation of Christ.**

- He modeled ***forgiveness and surrender*** in his final moments.
- His death was a seed that would later sprout ***into the conversion of Saul***.
- Who became **the Apostle Paul**, present and watching that day.
- Stephen's death in grace ***sparked a revival***.

**He didn't die in a why; he died with a witness.**

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### \*\*\*The Scars That Prove Survival

Lest we think this is only for martyrs like Stephen, Paul outlines his own frequent brushes with death and despair, the very "whys" of his missionary life:

**2 Corinthians 11:24-27** - 24 Five times I received from the Jews the forty lashes minus one. 25 Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was pelted with stones, three times I was shipwrecked, I spent a night and a day in the open sea, 26 I have been constantly on the move. I have been in danger from rivers, in danger from bandits, in danger from my fellow Jews, in danger from Gentiles; in danger in the city, in danger in the country, in danger at sea; and in danger from false believers. 27 I have labored and toiled and have often gone without sleep; I have known hunger and thirst and have often gone without food; I have been cold and naked.

Choose to love God no matter what happens.

- Paul was beaten, shipwrecked, naked, cold, and hungry.
- Yet he knew all things worked together for good.
  
- Joseph was betrayed, accused of rape, and put in prison.
- Yet he looked back and said that God intended it for his good.
  
- Jesus was reviled, suffered, crucified, and died.
- Yet it was by his stripes that we were healed.

Paul faced every possible why a person could endure.

These hardships did not define his ministry; they qualified it.

- His scars were not symbols of defeat but medals of endurance.
- Proof that the power of Christ rested upon him.
- He refused to let the agony of his "whys" silence his praise.

Let your wounds glow in the dark. You can't change the past. So, give God your wounds and let Him make them glow in the dark to help others.

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### \*\*\*The Purpose in the Pain

Finally, Peter brings us back to the ultimate example, Jesus Christ, and *provides the framework for our suffering*:

**1 Peter 2:21-24** - 21 To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps. 22 "He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth." 23 When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly. 24 "He himself bore our sins" in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; "by his wounds you have been healed."

**Jesus didn't just suffer; He suffered with a purpose.**

- Every lash, insult, and nail was ***part of a divine plan for our salvation.***
- He entrusted Himself to God the Father.

***When we are overwhelmed by the why, we are tempted to retaliate, to question God's goodness, to give up.***

- But we are called to follow in His steps.
- Our pain, when offered to God and aligned with His purpose, becomes redemptive.
- It heals us, refines us, and connects us more deeply to our Savior.

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**CLOSE:**

**God, He is working all things together for our good and His glory.**

**Don't let your why become your identity.**

**Don't let your pain be the final sentence of your story.**

**Turn your why into a who: Who can comfort me? Who can sustain me? Who can use this pain for good?**

**God will use everything you've been through to comfort others in their affliction if you respond in faith to God's Word.**

**If you're questioning God, you can move from your "why" to your purpose by forgiving others.**

**Rise from your confusion, accept His comfort, follow His example, and live the full life He has called you to, a life beyond the shadow of the why.**