

# God, Why didn't you Protect Me?

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*Putting on the African American Leadership Conference (AALC) has been one of the joys of being an Campus Missionary with Chi Alpha Campus Ministries!!*



As a campus missionary one of the #1 questions we get is, "If God is such a good God, why does he allow such terrible things to happen to us." I've pondered this question a lot and recently found myself being given the opportunity to teach/share my thoughts on it. Most recently, I spoke at a conference put on by the South East Chi Alpha Campus Ministries known as the African American Leadership Conference (AALC).

The purpose of the AALC conference is to provide minority students with a safe space to discuss the issues that have been burdening their hearts like black lives matter, police brutality, and to find biblical Christ-centered solutions to some of the racial tensions that they often experience in the world. And in doing so, it is our prayer to let our minority students know that God does see them, cares about them, and desires for them to take the rightful place as ambassadors of the Gospel as well.

This past year's AALC conference, the theme was all about "Embrace" with a focus on embracing the truth about God, about ourselves, and others. I spoke on the topic of "Embracing the truth about ourselves" and encouraging our students to realize one of the main ways we can affectively embrace the truth about ourselves is to embrace our pain and suffering. I talked about how it often times isn't God's desire for us to go through such traumatic things, but out of his sovereignty, he chooses to make something beautiful out of those situations. If we look closely, our sufferings, struggles with sin, and set backs create a beautiful road map to the person we're called to be. Below you'll find different points that expound upon why God allows suffering and how those experiences can help us begin to embrace the truth about ourselves.

**1) Suffering entered into the world as a result of sin.** And it manifests itself through natural disasters, disease, and through God's gift of free will. God gave us the gift of free will so that we could use it to love him freely not forcefully. And there are a lot of us that uses our free will to wonderful things that brings glory to God, but others uses it to horrible, evil things towards others.

**2) The enemy intends to harm us, but God uses the situations to save many lives.** So why doesn't God protect us from natural disasters, disease, and people using their free will to do evil? For me it reminds me of the story of Joseph and the coat many colors. He was sold into slavery by his own brothers, accused of rape, falsely imprisoned. And when he finally encounters his brothers again what does he tell them in

*Genesis 50:20 "You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives."*

So in other words, the enemy intended to harm you, but the Lord will use your situation to help so many others, bring them to Christ and essentially save their lives.

*Romans 8:28 also comes to mind, "And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them."*

And so for me, whenever all hell is breaking loose this scripture grounds me. And I ask the Lord how are you going to allow this situation to work together? How are you going to use this situation to help me point others to Christ? Because the following verse says,

*2 Corinthians 1:4 says "He comforts us in all of our trouble so that we can comfort others. When we are troubled, we will be able to give the same comfort God had give us."*

**3) There are salvations attached to our testimony.** Which leads me to my next point, God doesn't desire or take pleasure when we suffer. But in his sovereignty he promises to make something beautiful out of the tragedy. And one of the main ways he does that, is by allowing us to use our testimony to help bring others to Christ. I truly believe there are salvations attached to our testimonies. Once we survive and escape the hell we were once in, we should feel compelled to go back and pull others out of that hell too. So if I once suffered and struggled with something, once I overcome it then I should go back and help others overcome it too. And there is nothing more powerful than someone who says I've been through what you've been through. Can I tell you how I survived or how the Lord helped me overcome. I truly believe that entire ministries, books, and other callings are birthed out of our sufferings so that we can comfort others the way that God comforted us.

**4) God can use us to give others hope that the pain doesn't last always.** For example, someone in my family has been struggling with alcoholism and it has definitely thrown my immediate and extended family into shambles. And when I felt overwhelmed, I immediately asked God how could I use this situation to help others. And the Lord reminded me that not only do they have sponsors to help individuals overcome their addictions, but they also have sponsors to help family members navigate life with an addict in their family. They have sponsors for adults and sponsors for teenagers. And once I'm done healing from my current situation, I'd love to become a sponsor for a teenager and share my experiences with them and give them hope that the pain doesn't last always.

**5) God gives us the authority over the things we overcome.** I used to wonder how long it would take me to be like some of the heavy weights in the Spirit I look up to like Sarah Jakes Roberts, Heather Lindsey, Jada Hite (=). I would think, maybe I need to give up listening to all music, or not watch any tv, and then I would be pure enough for God to use me. I thought the anointing could be earned by my striving. But then as I reading a devotional, I came across the following verse that says,

*Hebrews 5:12-14 says, "12 In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food! 13 Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. 14 But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil."*

And the Lord used this verse to show me that the anointing isn't gained by striving, but happens as a result of us overcoming our trials and tribulations. How do I know this, because It happened to Jesus and we're called to do the same things Jesus did and even more. Jesus has authority and anointing over everything because he conquered everything even death on the cross. So it's the same for us. Whatever we conquer, we have authority over.

**6) We've allowed the devil to use our traumas to torment us, when we should allow the Lord to use them to propel us!** Each time we come out of trial we normally encounter God in a new way that stays with us. For example, I know God as my deliverer once he delivered me from my addiction to porn. I know God as my provider since he's made sure I've never lacked anything. I know God as my prince of peace once he quieted the constant voices in my head. And once we overcome those things, we have power and anointing to see it on others and call it out and pray for their deliverance. Jada has anointing and authority over lust because she's been delivered from it. And I know the same can happen for all of us as well. Once we overcome our addictions to lust, masturbation, or fears, anxieties, anger towards God, rid ourselves of our idols and strongholds, we'll be able to help others do the same. And we'll be able to help others in the ministries he's told some of us to start, in the Bible studies/small groups he's told us some of us start, etc. We've allowed the devil to use our traumas to torment us, when we should allow the Lord to use them to propel us! Propel us into our purpose. We've all been giving the same purpose to know God and to help others know God. Our unique calling is how God intends to use our gifts, passions, and our sufferings to do that.

Concluding thoughts

So why does God allow us to suffer? God allows it because suffering entered into the world as a result of sin. And although the enemy intends to harm us, God uses the situations we overcome to save many lives. Because once we overcome the situations, they become our testimony and I truly believe there are salvations attached to our testimonies. God can use us to give others hope that the pain doesn't last always. God also gives us the authority over the things we overcome. For far too long, we've allowed the devil to use our traumas to torment us, when we should allow the Lord to use them to propel us! There are entire ministries birthed from our pain and from our sufferings. How is God calling you to use your healing from a trauma to help heal others?