

LIVING BEYOND YOUR CIRCUMSTANCES

with Joni Eareckson Tada

The search for answers to “why?”

1. How am I going to make it?

- Suffering is not about some “thing” that can be answered easily.

2. The answers don't always heal.

- You don't stop the “bleeding” with answers, however true that are.
- The hurting person is like a “child.”

3. We need “Fatherly assurance” during times of pain.

- Daddy's here
- God must be at the center of our suffering: He is good.

4. The answer is not something, but someone: Our “Good Daddy.”

- Psalm 18 A High Fortress
- Psalm 10 Father
- Isaiah 54 Husband
- Isaiah 62 Bridegroom
- Exodus 15 Healer
- Isaiah 9 Wonderful Counselor
- John 4 Living Water
- John 6 Bread of Heaven

God IS the answer!

5. God allows suffering so nothing comes between Him and us.

Romans 8:35: "For who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?"

- II Corinthians 4:7-10

6. When we struggle with doubt of the goodness of God, look to Jesus' sufferings.

- "When suffering, the only answer that satisfies is to think of that greater affliction, Christ on the Cross." -Thomas Burton

7. Our weakness drives us to God.

- II Corinthians 7:8-11
- Philippians 3:20-21

8. God will wipe away every tear!

- Revelations 7:17

9. Earth crushes our illusions, but don't get too comfortable on Earth

- Heaven is reality.

10. New bodies, new hearts: The weaker we are, the more we lean on Christ.

11. We share in Christ's sufferings. Life is tough:

- We go to God because we have to.

God is our 'Good Daddy' and has made your life beautiful.