



The Only Answer

Description

We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. (2 Corinthians 4:9)

I know that Christmas is a great time of year for most of us, but I don't neglect to think about those who are going through a rough patch during this Christmas season. My prayers are with you, as you face your trials. May you be strengthened through the following words, knowing that Jesus is the answer! He will see you through even your most difficult times!

"The answer to suffering is not an answer at all, for no simple answer can tell you what you need to know. The hope is in the **Answerer**. It's Jesus himself. It's not a bunch of words; it's *the Word*. It's not a tightly woven philosophical argument; it's a person. *The* person. The answer to suffering cannot just be an abstract idea, because suffering isn't an abstract issue; it's a personal issue. It requires a personal response. The answer must be someone, not just something, because the issue involves someone—*God, where are you?*

Jesus is there, sitting beside us in the lowest places of our lives. Are we broken? He was broken, like bread, for us. Are we despised? He was despised and rejected of men. Do we cry out that we can't take any more? He was a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. Do people betray us? He was sold out himself. Are our most tender relationships broken? He too loved and was rejected. Do people turn from us? They hid their faces from him as from a leper. Does he descend into all of our hells? Yes, he does. From the depths of a Nazi death camp, Corrie ten Boom wrote: **'No matter how deep our darkness, he is deeper still.'**

He not only rose from the dead, he changed the meaning of death and therefore the meaning of all the little deaths—the sufferings that anticipate death and make up parts of it. He is gassed in Auschwitz. He is sneered at in Soweto. He is mocked in Northern Ireland. He is enslaved in the Sudan. He's the one we love to hate, yet to us he has chosen to return love. Every tear we shed becomes his tear. He may not wipe them away yet, but he will."

~Adapted from interview with Dr. Peter Kreeft (in the Case for Christ Bible)

Dear Father God, I pray that You will be especially near to those who are hurting right now. May they find strength in You and have hope through Your Son. May they see that every answer is in You! You will not fail them.

Thankful to know the One who has all the Answers,

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