



Key References:

Romans 5:12 (ESV)

¹² Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned—

Habakkuk 3:17–19 (ESV)

¹⁷ Though the fig tree should not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines, the produce of the olive fail and the fields yield no food, the flock be cut off from the fold and there be no herd in the stalls, ¹⁸ yet I will rejoice in the LORD; I will take joy in the God of my salvation. ¹⁹ GOD, the Lord, is my strength; he makes my feet like the deer's; he makes me tread on my high places.

2 Corinthians 12:9–10 (ESV)

⁹ But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. ¹⁰ For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

2 Corinthians 4:16–18 (ESV)

¹⁶ So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. ¹⁷ For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, ¹⁸ as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

1 – From exemption to engagement

Darryn remarked with another Christian parent of a sick child; “*I thought we [Christians] get a ‘free-pass’ with stuff like this.*” **Where does that feeling of exemption come from? Why aren’t Christians exempt from sickness and suffering?**

Someone who had lost a daughter to leukemia told Darryn to remember one thing; that “*God is good*”. Darryn said that this truth held him in the past year. **But how do Romans 5:12 & Genesis 3:22-23 explain suffering?**

Darryn said; “*I don’t think that we would be justified to hold a fist at God and say ‘why God? I don’t deserve this’.*” **How does knowing the root cause behind death and disease free us from blaming God?**

2 – From control to submission

Mari said: “*It’s quite easy to make Jesus our savior, but it’s less easy to make Jesus our Lord.*” **What do you think she meant? How does it relate to Mari’s situation?**

Read Habakkuk 3:17-19. **How can we take joy in God when nothing in the natural looks good or adds up?**

What is the most challenging part in giving up control and trusting God?

3 – From independence to dependence

Darryn talked about having to come to a place of surrender. **What is the difference between giving-up and surrendering before God?**

Read 2 Corinthians 12:9-10. **How would you explain the truth in this scripture?**

4 – From momentary to eternity

Read 2 Corinthians 4:16-18. **How often do you think and reflect on eternity? How is “our inner self [...] renewed” despite the affects of aging and sickness?**

Mari said: “*We can be so comfortable and complacent that we feel eternity with Jesus pales in comparison to what we have here on earth. But if we believe that then we’re missing out on the truth that is meant to revolutionize the way we live.*” **How will a proper view of eternity revolutionize the way we deal with coming struggles?**