

# I WANT TO BELIEVE, BUT ...

## “Heartless” God

Sunday, April 10, 2022

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### 1. Sometimes it seems like God doesn't care

- If you've ever felt like that, you are not alone
- God is not always fair... but he is just

### 2. When God doesn't seem fair

- God has a purpose in your pain
- God is present in your pain
- God's grace is enough

<sup>6</sup> So be truly glad. There is wonderful joy ahead, even though you must endure many trials for a little while. <sup>7</sup> These trials will show that your faith is genuine. It is being tested as fire tests and purifies gold—though your faith is far more precious than mere gold. So when your faith remains strong through many trials, it will bring you much praise and glory and honor on the day when Jesus Christ is revealed to the whole world. **1 Peter 1:6-7 NLT**

God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. **Psalms 46:1 NIV**

<sup>9</sup> Each time he said, “My grace is all you need. My power works best in weakness.” So now I am glad to boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ can work through me. <sup>10</sup> That's why I take pleasure in my weaknesses, and in the insults, hardships, persecutions, and troubles that I suffer for Christ. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

**2 Corinthians 12:9-10 NLT**

<sup>10</sup> He does not punish us for all our sins; he does not deal harshly with us, as we deserve. <sup>11</sup> For his unfailing love toward those who fear him is as great as the height of the heavens above the earth. <sup>12</sup> He has removed our sins as far from us as the east is from the west. **Psalms 103:10-12 NLT**

### Next Steps:

- Give thanks to God for his love and presence in my life when I struggle with hurt and pain
- Accept the unfairness of life even when I don't understand what God is doing. I will trust that God's purpose goes beyond my suffering
- When life seems unfair, I will give thanks that God doesn't always deal with me according to my actions and be thankful for his mercy to me
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