

Welcome to the Family



Damon Doran



Thank you for a great VBS!

“Increase Our Faith!”

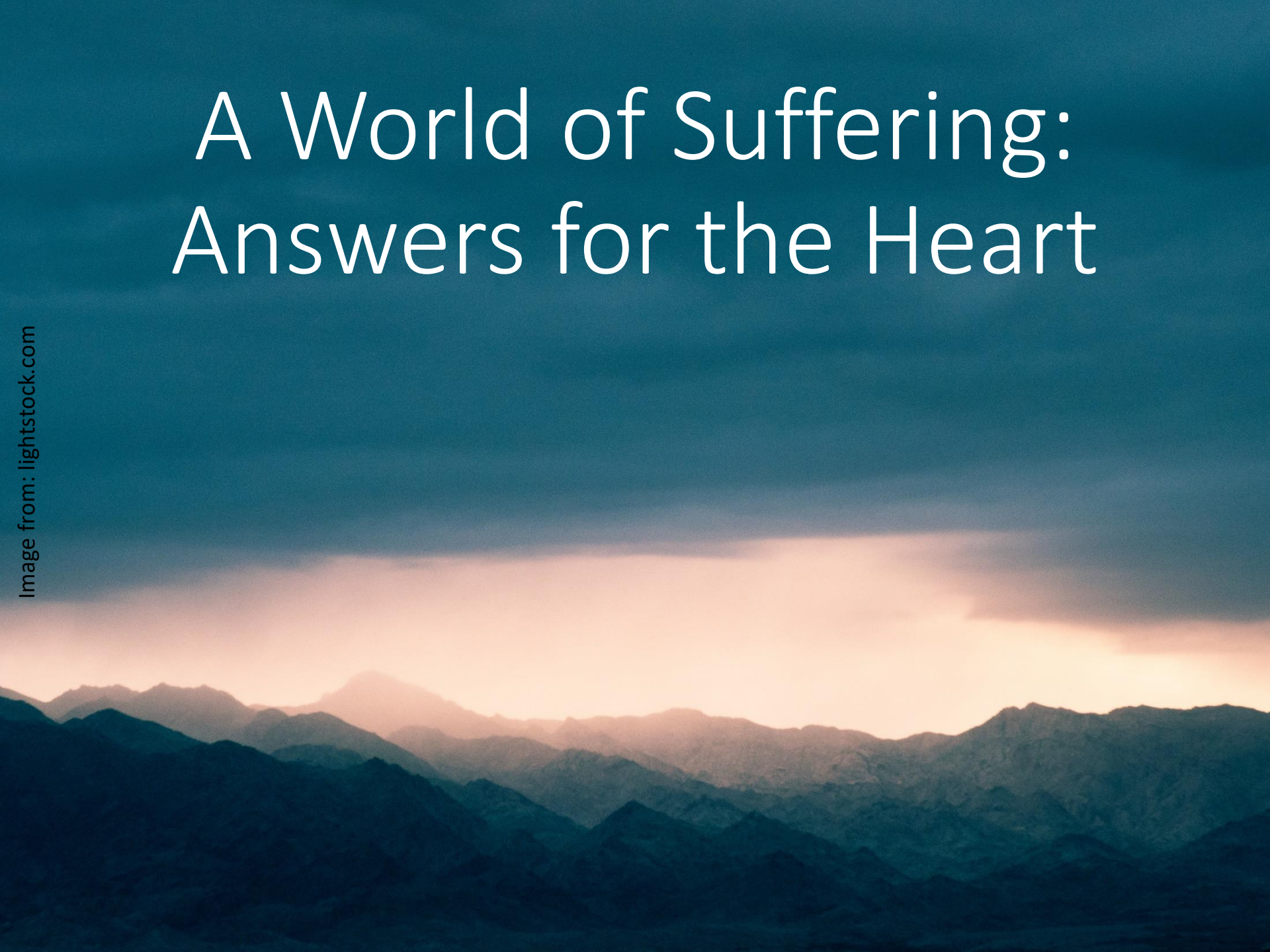


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**2023 Wednesday Night Summer Series
begins this Wednesday at 7pm**

A World of Suffering: Answers for the Heart

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New York Times Bestselling Author of
THE REASON FOR GOD and *THE PRODIGAL GOD*

TIMOTHY KELLER

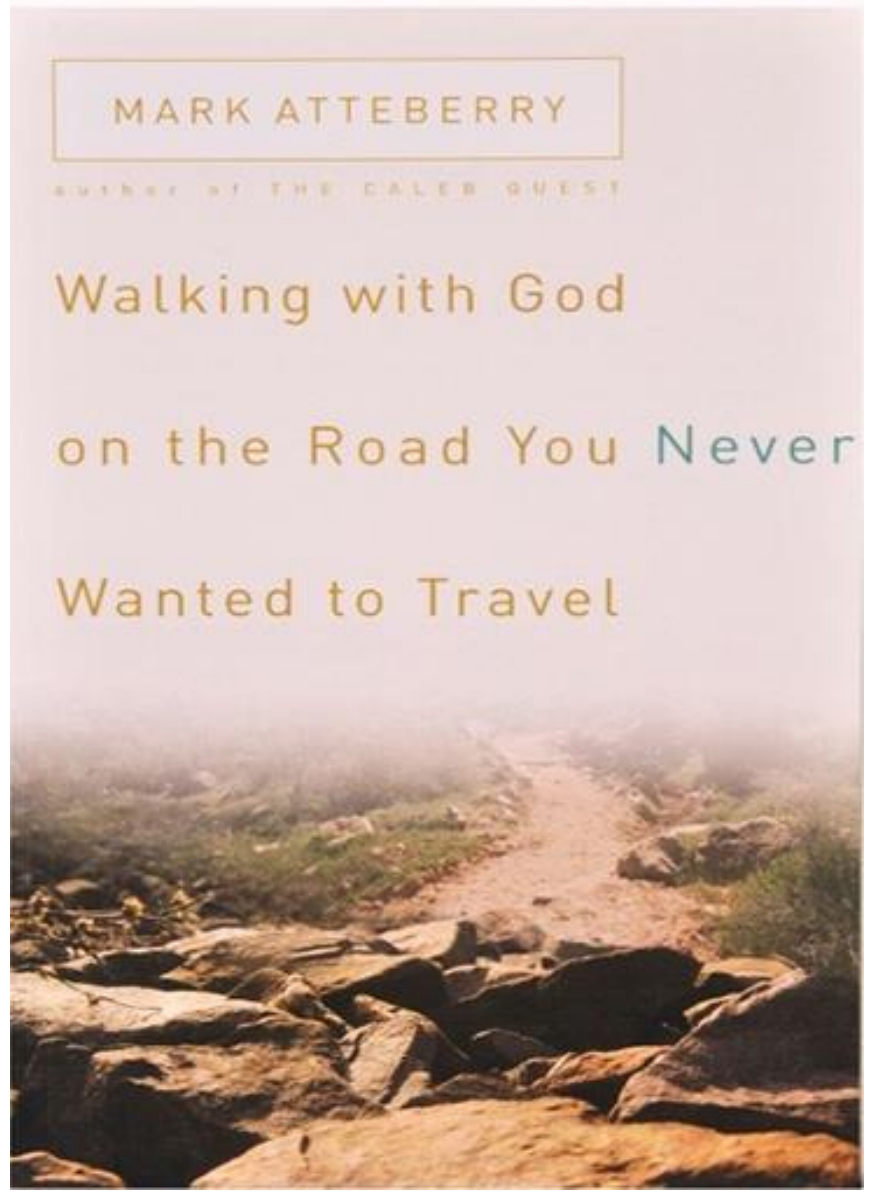
Walking with God
through
Pain and Suffering



MARK ATTEBERRY

AUTHOR OF *THE CALLED QUEST*

Walking with God
on the Road You Never
Wanted to Travel



Reflecting on Suffering



➤ We will face suffering
in our broken world.

Job 14:1

¹ “Man, who is born of woman,
Is short-lived and full of turmoil.

1 Peter 4:12

¹² Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you;

Reflecting on Suffering

- It's helpful to think through suffering from a “head” perspective and from a “heart” perspective.



What Our Heart Needs to Hear



➤ In the midst of suffering:



1) God hurts with us.

Romans 8:26

²⁶ In the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for *us* with groanings too deep for words;

Romans 8:17

¹⁷ and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with *Him* so that we may also be glorified with *Him*.

➤ In the midst of suffering:



2) God listens and comforts.

Romans 8:26-27

²⁶ In the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for *us* with groanings too deep for words;

²⁷ and He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to *the will of God*.

Romans 8:35-39

³⁵ Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

³⁶ Just as it is written,

“FOR YOUR SAKE WE ARE BEING PUT TO DEATH ALL DAY LONG;
WE WERE CONSIDERED AS SHEEP TO BE SLAUGHTERED.”

Romans 8:35-39

³⁷ But in all these things we
overwhelmingly conquer through Him
who loved us.

Romans 8:35-39

³⁸ For I am convinced that
neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor
principalities, nor things present, nor
things to come, nor powers,

³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor any other
created thing, will be able to separate
us from the love of God, which is in
Christ Jesus our Lord.

Psalm 34:18

18 The LORD is near to
the brokenhearted
And saves those who are crushed in
spirit.

➤ In the midst of suffering:



3) God promises that
evil will be judged.

Romans 8:37

37 But in all these things we
overwhelmingly conquer through Him
who loved us.

Romans 8:19-22

¹⁹ For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God.

²⁰ For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope

Romans 8:19-22

²¹ that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God.

²² For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now.

➤ In the midst of suffering:



4) God gives us strength
to endure.

Romans 8:31

³¹ What then shall we say to these things? If God *is* for us, who *is* against us?

Romans 8:37

37 But in all these things we
overwhelmingly conquer through Him
who loved us.

Philippians 4:13

13 I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.

2 Timothy 4:16-17

¹⁶ At my first defense no one supported me, but all deserted me; may it not be counted against them.

¹⁷ But the Lord stood with me
and strengthened me, ...

and I was rescued out of the lion's mouth.

➤ In the midst of suffering:



5) God works to bring good.

Romans 8:28

²⁸ And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to *His* purpose.

Genesis 50:20

²⁰ As for you, you meant evil against me, *but* God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result, to preserve many people alive.

➤ In the midst of suffering:



6) God promises a better home
where it will all be worth it.

Romans 8:18

18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

2 Corinthians 5:8

⁸ we are of good courage, I say,
and prefer rather to be absent from
the body and to be at home with the
Lord.

In a world of suffering,
may we cling to God,
who deeply loves us.

Acts 2:37-38

³⁷ Now when they heard *this*, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brethren, what shall we do?”

³⁸ Peter *said* to them, “Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

James 5:16

¹⁶ Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.