

Let's Discuss...Prayer

PART 7 *Suffering, When We Don't Understand*
& Affirmations



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Key Bible verses:

Consider it all joy, my brothers and sisters, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance.

James 1:2-3 NASB

The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.

James 5:16b NKJV

EPISODE SUMMARY

In this episode we talk about suffering, and how real it is, for Christians too, and try to reconcile this with the idea that God is sovereign.

People go through hard times and Niki talks about her own. She talks about how God never wanted these things to happen to her. In everything Niki has been through, she believes God was with her through it all and He has turned those situations around to the help of herself and people around her.

Tito talks about being careful and thoughtful when talking and praying with others. It might not be very helpful to just drop a verse or insensitive prayer on someone without considering what it may or may not mean to them, and how it could affect them given what they're going through.

We also chat about the difference between affirmations and prayer. One is more than just a helpful sentence...Prayer is a conversation with God, not focused on us, and has supernatural power to help us beyond what we could do on our own.

DEFINITIONS

intercede: to pray for someone else

omnipresent: being present everywhere at once

omnibenevolent: all goodness; having and giving perfect and unlimited goodness

omniscient: all knowing; knowing all things

omnipotent: all powerful; having unlimited power

sovereign: having power and authority over all things

LET'S DISCUSS...

- Colossians 1:16 NIV says, "For in Him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through Him and for Him."
 - » How do you reconcile God being sovereign with the suffering we experience as humans?
 - » Have any of your experiences or things you've seen caused you to wrestle with God's sovereignty?
- Isaiah 55:9 NIV says, "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts."
 - » Are you comfortable with trusting God even in situations that you don't understand?
- Romans 8:28 NLT says, "And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to His purpose for them."
 - » Can you think of a situation when you went through a hard time, but now looking back on it, you can see how God worked it out for good?
- What would you say are the differences between prayer and affirmations?
- When you think of God's omnipresence, omnipotence, omniscience, and omnibenevolence, how does it make you feel? Does this affect the way you pray?

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LET'S PRAY...

Meanwhile, the moment we get tired in the waiting, God's Spirit is right alongside helping us along. If we don't know how or what to pray, it doesn't matter. He does our praying in and for us, making prayer out of our wordless sighs, our aching groans. He knows us far better than we know ourselves, knows our pregnant condition, and keeps us present before God. That's why we can be so sure that every detail in our lives of love for God is worked into something good.

Romans 8:26-28 MSG

- Take a moment to quietly sit and meditate on this verse. Rest in the fact that God knows what you are going through, and even when we don't have the words, He is moving in and through us. Let Him wrap His arms of love around you. Be open and honest with your Creator, He wants it all. If no words come to mind, that's alright! He loves to be with you, so take some time to just be with Him.

LET'S GO DEEPER...

- **Book Overview: Job** by BibleProject [video]

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