

Wonderful Love

Know This Love: 9

It can be hard to feel that God loves you.

Our feelings don't accurately gauge the truth.

We can make some sense of some suffering.

Suffering due to our own sin

Suffering due to the sins of others

Suffering due to natural consequences

Some suffering is beyond our comprehension.

Suffering due to our own sin

Lamentations 1:12 “Is it nothing to you, all you who pass by? Look around and see. Is any suffering like my suffering that was inflicted on me, that the Lord brought on me in the day of his fierce anger?” NIV

Lamentations 1:15 “The Lord has rejected all the warriors in my midst; he has summoned an army against me to crush my young men. In his winepress the Lord has trampled Virgin Daughter Judah.” NIV

Lamentations 2:11-12 “My eyes fail from weeping, I am in torment within; my heart is poured out on the ground because my people are destroyed, because children and infants faint in the streets of the city. ¹² They say to their mothers, ‘Where is bread and wine?’ as they faint like the wounded in the streets of the city, as their lives ebb away in their mothers’ arms.” NIV

Lamentations 2:20 “Look, Lord, and consider: Whom have you ever treated like this? Should women eat their offspring, the children they have cared for? Should priest and prophet be killed in the sanctuary of the Lord?” NIV

Lamentations 3:13 He pierced my heart with arrows from his quiver. NIV

Lamentations 3:17 I have been deprived of peace; I have forgotten what prosperity is. NIV

Lamentations 3:17 *Fragmented*, my self knows no peace. I cannot remember what it's like to be happy. VOICE

Lamentations 3:44 You have covered yourself with a cloud so that no prayer can get through. NIV

Lamentations 4:6 The punishment of my people is greater than that of Sodom, which was overthrown in a moment without a hand turned to help her. NIV

Suffering due to the sins of others

Suffering due to the grand and unknowable plans of God

Somehow, God loves me in the midst of my suffering.

Lamentations 3:22-26 Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. ²³ They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. ²⁴ I say to myself, "The Lord is my portion; therefore I will wait for him." ²⁵ The Lord is good to those whose hope is in him, to the one who seeks him; ²⁶ it is good to wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord. NIV

I need to accept that some suffering is beyond my understanding.

Job 42:3 [Job said,] "You asked, 'Who is this that obscures my plans without knowledge?' Surely I spoke of things I did not understand, things too wonderful for me to know." NIV

I can receive God's love when I relinquish my right to complete understanding.

Psalms 131:1 My heart is not proud, Lord, my eyes are not haughty; I do not concern myself with great matters or things too wonderful for me. ² But I have calmed and quieted myself, I am like a weaned child with its mother; like a weaned child I am content. NIV