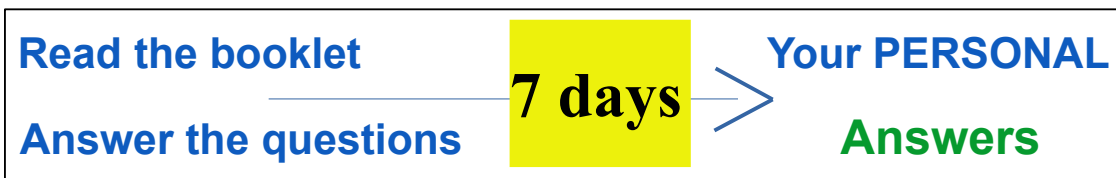


*7Day*

**Why Do I Exist- Why Do I Suffer?**

To see how much you matter:



**7Day**  
**Done**

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Why Do I Exist – Why Do I Suffer? v. 1

Presented by Al

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This book is part of the 7D Series.

Bible quotes are from the King James Version, at times updated by the author.

The author also does his own translation from the original Greek. The translation in bold is one he developed to give more info on what is actually in the text.

All images were created by the author from scratch.

In the 7D Series:

Why Do I Exist – Why Do I Suffer?  
Am I Important?  
What Did Jesus Do For Me?  
Did I Do the Sin to Death?  
How You Fit In with God  
27 Way the Bible Makes Me Better at Work  
What Type of Christian Am I?

Everything is written with a conservative Christian viewpoint in mind.

This book simply offers information and/or experiences and may invite you to compare your experiences with what is in this book.

This book is derived from [Jesus N Me](#).

Notes: This material is divided into 3 parts: *The Study*; *The Story*; *The Workbook*

The *Workbook* questions are all keyed to the verse numbers in the *Study*

Be sure to answer the questions- they are at the end of this booklet

The *Story* is a brief overview of the main ideas in story form

This material is derived from Jesus N Me

### *Part Two*

## **Why the need for mercies?**

### **Matter 2: The ONE Reason We Exist and Matter**

#### **The study**

Why the need for mercies? They are a route to more glory for God. Mercies are one reaction to suffering caused by someone doing harm. Without the suffering there are no meaningful mercies. So suffering must happen. Therefore God suffers, so He can show mercies, so He gets more glory.

Why do WE suffer? We are images of God. We show what God is like. We show what God is like when we suffer and then DO mercies due to God's lifestyle principles IN us. More important, we cause God to suffer, and God directly shows what He is like as He DOES mercies toward us. Watch us, and see the reality and value of God's mercies.

And why does it matter that anyone can see what God is like by watching us? Because angels want to know what God is like. We were created so the angels can learn more about God. We were created to suffer so we can show mercies. Even more, we were created to receive mercies, especially directly from God. So angels watch, learn, and glorify God more.

**Why suffering? Why evil? Why do WE suffer? Why does God set things up so HE suffers? Why the need for mercies?**

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A BIG word of caution about Section 2:

The goal when writing books about God's perfect Word is to think God's thoughts after Him, and to explain the meanings of what He is presenting. The problem is that it is real easy to put in ideas that seem logical, but they are simply my ideas, not God's. And my ideas can lead us way off track. For example, I just had one terrific idea. Wow, was it good. I wrote it down- a page of info. Then I asked, "Where is the proof?" What verses in the Bible support this idea? What I found were lots of verses showing the idea was wrong. I was thinking man's thoughts, not God's. That terrific idea was actually a terrible idea.

In section 1 of this book I went through a consecutive set of verses, bringing out the ideas of the verses. This is known as "Bible commentary". Many people will think I erred, especially with my application of 2 Corinthians 5:21 to this passage. Many others will agree with me.

In section 2 I provide an explanation for "Why does evil exist?" To my knowledge I am the only one who has ever given a possible unified all-encompassing theory. To do this I put together a number of scattered verses in what I think is a logical flow. This is known as "systematic theology". I follow some unusual paths. I make some inferences (which God expects us to do as we study). There is a much larger potential for me to inject my wrong ideas into this type of discussion than in the one in section 1. I welcome input, positive and negative.  
>>>>>

In our exploration of these things we will move further and further back in time.

We start with Eve, the first woman. She and Adam had just done the first sin. And God pronounced judgment on them. Part of the judgment was that Eve was going to suffer more during childbirth (Genesis 3:16). Now notice this. God did not say she was going to have pain. He told her she was going to have much more pain. Stop and think about this for a moment. If she was going to have more pain after the first sin, and not just start having pain, this means she was going to suffer pain in Eden even if she had not sinned. People tend to think of Eden as utopia: a place with no pain. Not so. There was pain in Eden. Adam and Eve were created to suffer, sin or no sin. You and I were created to suffer. And that brings us to the question:

**Why? Why would God create us to suffer?**

For the answer to that we need to go back a little further in time, to Genesis 1:26, when God created man and woman to begin with. God created us in His image and likeness. So **what does it mean to be the image and likeness of God?**

We will deal with the question of likeness when we discuss how God motivates us to show mercy.

For now we need to concentrate on our being the **image** of God. Then we can see **why we** were created to suffer.

**How can we be the image of God?** How can people look at us and see what God is like in His actions?

For that we can look at Jesus. He said, "he that has seen Me has seen the Father" John 14:9. Jesus is a man. Men are images of God. To see the man is to see the Father. To see Jesus the man is to see the Father. Jesus was the image of God the Father. He was the ultimate image of the Father. Hebrews 1:3 says He was the "exact representation" of God. And how was He the image of the Father? Jesus is God. He is eternal. He is infinite. And yet: You can't see foreverness by looking at Jesus. You can't see transcendence by looking at Jesus. And you sure can't see those things by looking at us as images of God. So this wasn't how He was an image of God.

You can see something about the Father when He does miracles through someone. People could see the deeds Jesus did. He raised the dead, healed people, told truths no one knew. They saw a bit of God's all-knowingness and all-powerfulness by looking at Jesus. But then they weren't really seeing things about the Father by looking at Jesus but by looking at acts done by the Father, and Jesus just happened to be the one the Father did them through. People could see Jesus doing miracles, but that wasn't Jesus Himself showing them what the Father was like. That was the Father showing what God is like through Jesus. God did miracles through Jesus, and He can do them through us for that matter, but that doesn't really make Jesus or us into God's images. It didn't make it so people could look at Jesus Himself or can look at Me Myself today and see what God is like. It doesn't make us ourselves like God in some way so people can see what God is like by looking at us. We can't claim miracles are part of Me, controlled by Me. They aren't Me in action. They are God in action, just like they were God in action through Jesus. Miracles don't make one into an image of God. You can learn about God through the miracles, you may do some miracles (or rather God may do some through you) but they don't make you into an image of God because they don't involve people seeing what God is like by looking at **you**. Even doing miracles isn't **us** showing what the Father is like.

Jesus didn't say people saw God by what God did, He said “he that has seen **Me** has seen the Father”. Jesus Himself was the image of the Father. Jesus was the ultimate image of God. To see Jesus was to see the Father.

There was something to be seen about the Father that was seen in Jesus acting as a Human that was not seen in the miracles God did through Jesus. There was something to be seen about the Father that was seen in how Jesus Himself acted, not just in how the Father acted through Jesus.

*So what did they see? What do we see?*

*Our answer needs to include you and me being seen, too.*

We are also made to be images of God. People should be able to see **us** and see what the Father (and what Jesus and what the Holy Spirit) is like. What was there about Jesus that made Him like God that we can also be like? (I am making a leap in thought here and assuming we can be seen in the same way Jesus was, as far as being an image of the Father is concerned, and will soon show how this happens.)

Whatever people could see about the Father in Jesus as the Image of God, it had to be visible in His humanness and not His Godness, because we are also supposed to be images of God, and we are humans, not gods. So how could people see God the Father when they saw Jesus the human being? And how can they see God in us in the same way?

I am also assuming it will be something we have some control over, since not everyone shows what the Father is like. This, too, will be seen to be true shortly.

So, in what way can you and I be images of God in the same way Jesus was? *What do people see in Jesus and in us so they are seeing the Father? How can “he that has seen **Me** has seen the Father” apply to Jesus and to us (in a lesser way)?* We can find the answer in God's expectations of us. He has expectations of Himself. He had expectations of Jesus. And He has the same expectations of us. This is one area where we are alike.

**And what are those expectations?** We are to live by the "fruit of the Spirit" (love, joy, peace, patience, etc. Galatians 5:22-23). We are to love God, love our neighbors, and love God's followers. We are to be holy. These are things God does. These are things God demands we do. These are things John and Peter and the other disciples saw Jesus do as a Man. These are things we as Men and Women are expected to do. God demands it. We can't be like God in foreverness or all-knowingness. It is also apparent we are not all supposed to do all the things- the miracles- Jesus did. We can't control miracles on our own. But we can and should be like God in the *lifestyle principles* we live by. Caring, peace, patience, etc.

What do we see about Jesus- something God expects us to do? We see what lifestyle principles He lived by as He did those deeds.

**John 5:30** I can of my own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not my own will, but the will of the Father who has sent me.

Jesus came to do God's will God's way. He came to do God's will the same way God does it.

**John 6:38** For I came down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him that sent me.

Jesus did a lot of acts and God did a lot of miracles through Jesus. Underlying every one of those acts was Jesus' love for God and love for people. Jesus died on the cross. Same love was behind that. Behind every act, every miracle was love for God and man, the fruit of the Spirit, holiness: in short, God's lifestyle principles, His standards of conduct.

Having God's lifestyle principles guide His every act is how Jesus was like God as a Man, and how we as Humans can be like God. We can choose to live by those lifestyle principles. We can choose not to. Many people choose not to. It is their choice. It is our choice on whether or not to be open to living by God's lifestyle principles. We can choose to live like God in this way or not to.

This is something we can not only do, it is something we are expected to do. We are expected to live by the same lifestyle principles God lives by. We are expected to live by the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23). We are expected- demanded- to live by unconditional commitment to others ("love"). We are expected to love God, love our neighbors, and love fellow Christians. God doesn't just suggest it, He demands it of us.

But we can't do this on our own. The Jews were living proof of that for many years as they failed to live by the Mosaic Law.

Now, how do we do that? I'm not perfect. You are not perfect. Even when we want to do things God's way for God's glory we fail. Only Jesus was perfect.

### **So how do we live by God's lifestyle principles like Jesus did?**

The clue is in Jesus being called the "Christ". This means He is the "Anointed One". He has an anointing. An anointing is an "enabling endowment". And what was Jesus enabled to do? He was enabled to voluntarily act like the Father as a Human Being in certain ways. And whatever these certain

ways are, whatever this anointing is, it is something we can share in because in 1 John 2:20 and 27 John says we have an “anointing”.

As it turns out, Jesus is the Anointed One, and He makes us anointed ones. So let's look at Jesus, and see what He had that we can have today.

We can see what Jesus acted like. We can see how He reacted to the various circumstances of life. And God the Father expects us to do the same thing. How did Jesus do it? He had an anointing, an enabling endowment, to do it.

**John 5:19** Then Jesus answered and said to them, Truly, truly, I say to you, The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he sees the Father do: for whatever he does, the Son also does.

**John 8:38a** I speak that which I have seen with my Father.

God passed His lifestyle principles down to Jesus and Jesus was enabled to live by them as a Man. The lifestyle principles are the enabling endowment. Jesus was given the lifestyle principles and the ability to act by them. Jesus reacted to the various circumstances of life using those lifestyle principles. This is what made Jesus the “exact representation” of what God the Father is like. Jesus was the image of God. The perfect image of God.

Jesus wasn't forced to live by those lifestyle principles. He chose to. In the Garden of Gethsemane, as He was staring the agonies of the cross in the face, He said to God the Father, “Not My will, but Yours, be done.” Jesus chose to do things the Father's way, even though it was going to be extremely unpleasant. He voluntarily lived by the Father's lifestyle principles. This choice made it so He could “do nothing of himself”.

Jesus **chose** to live by God's lifestyle principles. But He did not live by them in His own abilities. There is a second part to this anointing. Jesus received the lifestyle principles from God the Father. AND Jesus was filled with the Holy Spirit (Luke 4:1; John 1:14). The Holy Spirit enabled Jesus to live by the lifestyle principles the Father passed down to Jesus. The anointing includes both the lifestyle principles and the Holy Spirit. It is not one or the other, it is both.

And what about us? We have God enabling us to live by His lifestyle principles. We have an anointing. Jesus takes those same lifestyle principles and passes them down to us. (See God WANTS You, on 1 John 2:20, 27.) While we do it imperfectly, we are representations of what God the Father is like. We are images of God. We can choose to do things God's way, by the lifestyle principles Jesus is implanting in us, or not to. We have a choice. We can voluntarily be an image of God in that moment, or not.

And just like Jesus, we have the Holy Spirit in us enabling us to live by the Father's lifestyle principles. (See Why Do I Exist, and What Can I Do About It?) When Jesus was on earth He was filled with the Holy Spirit. Jesus was influenced. It took all of the infinite Holy Spirit's capacity to fill infinite Jesus. Jesus told the disciples He would send the Holy Spirit to them after He was in Heaven (John 16:7). Why wait? Because now that He is in Heaven Jesus is operating from His own Godhood. He is no

longer taking up all of the Holy Spirit's capacity to enable humans to act as humans ought to- living by the Father's lifestyle principles. The Holy Spirit is now directing that capacity to us.

So we have the anointing- the enabling endowment of the lifestyle principles in us. We know the right to do, and what kind of act applies in what situation. And we have the enabling endowment of the Holy Spirit enabling us to DO the lifestyle principles as needed.

**Now, finally, we can answer the question of why we were created to suffer.**

We are created to react to the various circumstances of life like God does, by following His lifestyle principles (standards of conduct). We are to be images of God, dealing with events and opportunities the same way God does.

So, tell me, **how are you going to react to suffering like God does, and so show how God reacts to suffering, if you don't suffer?** You won't. You must suffer if you are going to show how God reacts to suffering. You will only be a real image of what God is like when He suffers if you suffer. And that is why we were created to suffer, so we can be an image of what God is like when He suffers.

**So now you will ask, “Well, God doesn't suffer, does He? I mean, He is God! Why would God suffer?”**

Jesus hung on the cross. Jesus is Man; He is also God. Not just as a man but as God He suffered. He dealt with all of our sins while He was on the cross. He went through the horror of being made sin. He went through the agony of waiting for the Father's mercy to be applied to our sins. He did this as God. God suffered.

During the 3 hours Jesus dealt with our sins God the Father, Who had eternally had a relationship with Jesus closer than anything we can imagine, was separated from Jesus. Loss of a close relationship causes suffering. God the Father suffered through the loss of an infinite relationship. The separation was so total that God, who cannot look upon sin, turned out the lights of the universe (Mk 15:33; Lk 23:44-45). The Father could not even see Jesus, let alone relate to Him. The break in the relationship was total. God the Father suffered.

**This suffering was not an afterthought, due to our actions.** It wasn't done to correct a problem God had not thought of before He created this universe.

God planned, before the universe was created, for Jesus to suffer. Before the universe was created God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit had a discussion. And they each decided to take on roles, so each One could bring more glory to the other two. God planned for God to suffer. There is a hint toward this idea in Revelation 13:8. One valid interpretation of this verse says Jesus is the Lamb slain before the foundation of the world. 1P 1:20 reinforces this idea: **1Pet 1:18** knowing that you were not ransomed with corrodable silver or gold, from your empty lifestyle *received* by tradition from your fathers; **19** But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: **20** Who truly was



foreknown/foreordained before the foundation of the world, and having been made apparent in these last times for you [a combination of KJV and my translation].

Yes, God suffers. Now the question is: **Why would God plan to suffer in this universe?** No one chooses to suffer for no reason at all. God is God. He could end all suffering if He wanted to. So why does it occur? If God hadn't suffered, we wouldn't have to suffer in order to be full images of what God is like. So why does God suffer, and then make us suffer?

**For clues to this (and there aren't many) we need to look at angels.**

*Angels constantly watch us.* **Matt 18:10** Take heed that you do not despise one of these little ones; for I say to you, That in heaven their angels always behold the face of my Father who is in heaven. **1Cor 4:9** For I think that God has set forth us apostles last, as appointed to death: for we are made a spectacle to the world, and to angels, and to men. **1Tim 5:21** I charge you before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, and the elect angels, that you observe these things without preferring one before another, doing nothing by partiality. **Heb 13:2** Do not be forgetful to entertain strangers: in this way some have entertained angels unawares.

*I don't think they watch us just for academic, information reasons. I think they watch us for personal reasons. They have something at stake in this.*

*There is a reason angels rejoiced when man was created.* **Job 38:4** Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? declare, if you have understanding. **5** Who has laid the measures of it, if you know? or who has stretched the line upon it? **6** What are the foundations of it fastened on? or who laid the corner stone of it; **7** When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?

*There is a reason they sang when Jesus was born.* **Luke 2:13** And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, **Luke 2:14** Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

*And we can tell what it is the angels are seeking after. They want to know about salvation. They want to know how God reacts to sinners.* **1Pet 1:10** Of which salvation the prophets have inquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace *that should come* to you: **11** Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow. **12** To whom it was revealed, that not to themselves, but to us they did minister the things, which are now reported to you by those who have preached the gospel to you with the Holy Spirit sent down from heaven; which things the angels desire to look into. **Luke 15:10** Likewise, I say to you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.

*They are learning how God is going to react to them and their crimes against God.* **Eph 3:10** To the intent that now to the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God. *They are learning about salvation by watching us.*

*They have a personal stake in this.*

*There are angels that are sinners. We know that. Satan is the first of them in this universe. And that caused God to suffer. Now, this does not tell us why God planned to suffer before the universe was created, or why He planned for us to suffer.*

For that information we need to go back even further in time. Actually, we need to go back before time even existed. We need to think of what appears to have been true back then.

*It is quite possible there were angels that sinned before this universe was created. If so, God suffered before the universe was created. And those angels worry about how God is going to treat them.*

*They know there is a temple, a tabernacle, in heaven. Angels know temples deal with the intersection of sin and holiness and salvation. But what is that all about? How does it work? How does it affect them?*

**Heb 8:1** Now of the things which we have spoken this is the sum: We have such a high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens; **2** A minister of the sanctuary, and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man. The earthly temple is a copy of the heavenly one. The earthly temple demonstrates what is going on in the heavenly one. **Heb 8:5** Who serve the example and shadow of heavenly things, as Moses was admonished by God when he was about to make the tabernacle: for, **See**, he says, **that you make all things according to the pattern shown to you in the mount.** See also: **Heb 9:1** Then truly the first *covenant* also had ordinances of divine service, and a worldly sanctuary. ... **11** But Christ coming as a high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; **12** Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption *for us*. ... **23** *It was* therefore necessary that the patterns [copies] of things in the heavens should be purified with these; but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. **24** For Christ did not enter into the holy places made with hands, *which are* the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us:

**Heb 10:12** But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God; **13** From then on waiting till his enemies be made his footstool. **14** For by one offering he has perfected for ever those who are sanctified. **15** *Whereof* the Holy Spirit also is a witness to us: for after he said before, **16 This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds I will write them;** **17 And their sins and iniquities I will remember no more.** **18** Now where forgiveness of these *is*, *there is* no more offering for sin.

Those angels want to know what that heavenly temple means for them.

Angels that exist outside our universe, and sinned before this universe was created, want to understand salvation. They want to know how God is going to deal with them.

And where are they going to get the answer? This is where you and I come in. ***The reason we were created in God's image and likeness (Genesis 1:26) was to show angels how God deals with suffering, not just in this universe, but out there, wherever out there is. They learn by watching us about the salvation, the mercies, God offers to those who cause Him to suffer. They learn about the suffering God does for us so we don't suffer eternally as a punishment for making God suffer.***

This universe wasn't made for us. It was made for them. We weren't made for God. He didn't lack companionship. The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit had each other. Instead, **we were made for the angels.**

The way I picture this universe is that it is a huge auditorium. The Bible doesn't say it is, but that is how I picture it. And those trillions and trillions of stars are angel's seats. In the middle of the auditorium is the Stage. That is planet Earth. And on the stage are the main actors. That is you and me. We are made in the image of God. We are made to show what God is like- to the angels. God had something He wanted to teach them, and He made you and me to be tools so He could teach the angels what He wants them to know. God shows us mercy. God gives us salvation. God suffers for us. And by seeing what God is doing for and in us, angels see how God is going to treat them.

We are made to react to suffering the way God reacts to suffering. We are made to show mercies just like God does. God gives us His lifestyle principles so we will act like He does when He suffers. We are also made to receive mercies. We are made to react to receiving mercies. This way the angels can see that mercies result in joy and peace with God.

God made us to be living demonstrations. Angels can see Christ directly and how He reacts to suffering. They can see what happens to Christ when He receives mercies. But Christ alone will not give them a full understanding of what is occurring. Christ is God, and God is too different to fully understand directly. And angels will not be sure if this is a special situation only meant for Christ, since Christ is also God. So God created dumbed down creatures- that's us- for angels to watch. As we act, and react, angels can figure us out. They can see us reacting to suffering and mercies over and over, millions of us in millions of circumstances, in a huge variety of circumstances, so they get a fuller picture of what it is all about all around. And they use this to figure God out. And then they give God more glory. They get what they want, God gets what He wants.

We are object lessons. We give God glory ourselves, and this is greatly magnified because angels give God glory as they watch us.

Which brings up the still-remaining next question: **Why would God set things up so He suffered even before this universe was created?** Why would God ever allow anyone, angel or human, to make Him suffer? Ever?

God is 'love'- unconditional commitment to the well-being of others. For this reason each member of the Trinity seeks more glory (see below) for the other 2 members, though not for Himself. As a totality, *God is seeking more glory for God.*

So God created creatures who can live by unconditional commitment to the well-being of others. God is the 'unconditional commitment to the well-being of others'. And He created beings- angels- that also live by 'love'. It is necessary for a creature to be able to be unconditionally committed to God if God is going to receive maximum glory from that creature.

It is also necessary for a creature to **voluntarily** be unconditionally committed to God if God is going to receive maximum glory from that commitment. God is seen as special- glorified- when a creature voluntarily commits himself to God. It has to be a voluntary commitment. God chose to make angels who can choose. **God gave them a free will, so they can choose to glorify God, which increases God's glory.** This creature has to have free will, including the ability to choose to be unconditionally committed to God or to be unconditionally committed to another, if he is going to really choose to glorify God. No being can truly voluntarily live by love, by the unconditional commitment to others, and be a mere robot. This creature has to have free will, including the ability to choose to be unconditionally committed to God or to be unconditionally committed to himself, if he is going to really choose to love God or others.

These creatures may voluntarily choose to glorify God, which will increase His glory, as a response to His showing unconditional commitment to their well-being.

**God WANTS to show mercy.**

Purposely suffering for others is one route God uses to show His unconditional commitment to others, in His pursuit of more glory. God shows extreme unconditional commitment by showing extreme **mercies** as a reaction to being wronged, to being caused to suffer. To show these extreme mercies required God to open Himself up to being hurt by creatures He has created, and to need to take extreme measures of suffering to deal with that hurt. So God created angels that could hurt Him, **setting things up so He suffered even before this universe was created.** God shows His unconditional commitment to them, in extreme mercies, in what Jesus did for us humans on the cross, and in what the Father did for Jesus and us while Jesus was on the cross. This will result in much glory for God.

God will get even more glory if the creature chooses to be unconditionally committed to God no matter what. And angels (and we) can make that choice, and some of us do, again as a result of the extreme mercies God has shown to us.

Put more simply: Having created creatures that can voluntarily be committed to God, and that can also not do so- which results in God suffering as they pursue agendas contrary to God- God has the opportunity to show all the angels an angle about Himself that they would not otherwise see or understand, namely, His mercies, and the depth of His unconditional commitment to others- including them- as seen in the depth of suffering He does for us so we and they don't suffer eternally as a consequence of making Him suffer. This brings God even more glory. And glory is a BIG deal to God.

Where we fit in: God desires more glory. And for that glory to occur we have free will. And with that free will we do wrong. We do evil. We hurt God. In return God has 2 options. Destroy us completely. But that goes contrary to the desire for more glory. Or deal with the evil in a way that does not include destroying us, so the glory can happen. This involves showing us mercies. We receive mercies. We glorify God. Angels see the mercies. They know their future, and they glorify God.

We were created so God can show His mercies to us, and through us to the angels.

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The topic of God seeking **more glory** for God, without it being selfish, is a big one that is dealt with in [How to Make God Happy](#) (an upcoming book) and in [Why Do I Exist, And What Can I Do About It?](#) (an upcoming book). Suffice it to say the Father sacrificially seeks more glory for the Son (Jesus) and the Holy Spirit; the Son sacrificially seeks more glory for the Father and the Holy Spirit; and the Holy Spirit sacrificially seeks more glory for the Father and the Son.

As a small sample of this: What was the absolute greatest way for Jesus to show He loves the Father? To die for Him voluntarily. [John 15:13](#) Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

[Rom 5:6](#) For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. <sup>7</sup> For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet possibly for a good man some would even dare to die. <sup>8</sup> But God commends his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

These verses refer to Jesus dying for us. In the background He died even more for the Father. It was predestinated that Jesus would die on the cross. He also did it voluntarily. It was predestinated that Jesus would die on the cross voluntarily. He did it for the Father. He did it so the Father could show His mercies and get glory from it.

>>>>>

**And now we need to deal with our being the likeness of God**, which was brought up in Genesis 1:26, because this involves us showing mercies the way God does. Our being the likeness of God gives us motives to show mercies like He does so we are living examples of what God is like in His mercies. This is the second way angels can learn about God's mercies by watching us.

In 1 John 1 we read that God is “light”. God constantly seeks after relationships with us (and other creatures). This is a fundamental reality about God. For the purposes of this universe God turned this reality about Himself into a need that He implanted in us. He seeks relationships because it is part of what He is like, it is part of His fabric of being, due to His glory seeking; and so He made us so we need relationships as a part of our fabric of being so we bring God more glory. In this way we are like God. A child has 3 needs. He needs to be looked in the eyes. This tells him you recognize him as an individual, as somebody. And he needs to be listened to. This tells him you see him as important, not just an object to be ignored. And he needs to be touched- as in a 15 minute hug a day (which can do wonders for obedience). This tells him he is part of the group, protected, safe: He belongs: you have his back, he has yours. We need relationships. God created us that way. We reflect God's desire for relationships.

God doesn't need relationships with us. He already has relationships within the Trinity. He wants relationships with us. It is the nature of God to want relationships, needed or not. In these relationships God gets more glory. And glory is what God is after. Only in the context of relationships do we show mercies because we all mess up on our relationships and end up needing to give and get mercies from each other. And by putting a need for relationships in us God put in a need for us to show mercies. We all suffer. We all cause suffering. We all receive mercies. We all give mercies so we can maintain

relationships. So we show what God is like not only in receiving mercies from God as we pursue our relationship with Him, but in a lesser way, in a multitude of situations, by giving mercies to and receiving mercies from each other. And God gets more glory.

We were created to suffer so mercies would be shown. We were created so God can show His mercies, and what that means. We were created to DO mercies, so angels see mercies in a variety of contexts, and better understand God's mercies, as we DO mercies as part of living by God's lifestyle principles (which is really another way of God showing His mercies, since He lives His lifestyle principles through us).

Relationships are a route to mercy. And mercy is a route to glory. This is one reason God seeks relationships. And it is one reason why He created us to need relationships- for His increased glory.

### **God is fair in making us suffer**

We cannot claim God is unfair in making us suffer while He does not. He suffers more than any of us. He suffers more than all of us combined.

God suffers because He seeks the glory that comes from showing mercy.

God suffers so He can show mercy so He can get more glory. He has opened Himself up to being hurt by creatures He has created for this reason.

Nor can we claim God is unfair in making us suffer at all. We suffer for a mere 70 or 80 years.

God desires more glory. And for that glory to occur we are given free will. And with that free will we do wrong. We do evil. We hurt God. In return God has 2 options. Destroy us completely. But that goes contrary to the desire for more glory. Or deal with the evil in a way that does not include destroying us, so the glory can happen. This involves showing us mercy. We receive mercy.

God created us to be His images. God shows mercy. It is part of what He is like. And we are meant to show mercy. It is part of living by the lifestyle principles God implants in us and enables us to live by. We do mercy. We live out mercy toward others.

And we get eternal glories in return. That's a huge repayment for voluntarily taking part in God's plan to show angels what mercy is all about.

### ***Mercies are the Plan:***

As God planned before He created this universe:

We are created to need relationships.

To maintain the relationships Jesus gives us God's lifestyle principles. Most notably we are enabled to live by the principle of unconditional commitment to the well-being of others.

We are given free will. We can choose to be unconditionally committed to someone or not. We can harm someone or not.

Needing relationships, and messing them up with our sins, we show and receive mercies for harm done.

The biggest mercies we receive are given to us through Jesus by God who is harmed the most by us.

We glorify God by praising Him because of the extreme mercies He shows us, and by DOING mercies because of God's lifestyle principles in us.

Angels learn about God's mercies by watching us. They learn about their future. We are object lessons of the mercies they get. That is what we were created for.

The angels glorify God more.

We get eternal rewards.

*God reaches His goal of seeking more glory for God, for each member of the Trinity.*

**Why we are created to suffer:** We are Images of God. We react to suffering caused by others the way God does: with mercies. This leads to everyone seeing how God acts. Which leads to God gaining more glory.

**Why we- and others- are able to do evil: Why there is evil at all:** We must be able to do evil so God can, of His own will, directly give us mercies. The evil is never good, but the mercies are. Then everyone sees how God reacts to evil in how He treats us- with mercies. This leads to more glory for God.

***Mercies.***

***We receive them. We give them. So angels understand them. That's why we exist.***

***The depth of God's love for Me!***

***God bothers to save Me!***

***How Savable I am!***

For the ultimate example of mercies we saw Jesus needing mercies in Part One of this book. And we will see Him giving us mercies in Part Three.



*Part Two***Why the Need for Mercies?****Mercies N Angels 2****The story**

You remember the stories:

Well, this starts before that. Before there was a far far away. Before there was a long time ago. Before God created the heavens and the earth.

'I did God real dirty.'

"So I heard."

'Real bad. I wonder what He is going to do to me.'

"I don't know. I hear God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit are in a conference about it right now."

'I'm afraid.'

The temple is almost in our flight path. We shift our wings to go around it.

'I wonder what that is all about.'

"I don't know. I hear it is where God is going to deal with all the bad things you guys did."

Shock waves rock my wings. I look around, wondering where the sudden air flow came from. He had turned and his wings are beating so furiously I'm surprised they don't fall off.

"Where are you going?" I shout out. I give chase, wishing I had rocket thrusters, whatever those are.

The strange place falls behind us.

He slows down enough I can catch up.

'Sorry. I panicked.'

"I noticed."

We are back on course. God has created something new, and we are all required to be there.

We enter a brand new auditorium. Word is out. This is where God is going to show us what He is going to do to angels like him.

This place is huge. There are trillions and trillions of seats, mostly arranged in 8 spheres around a central stage.

"That stage is pretty." I look at the blue of the water, the brown and green land, the clouds.

'The stage is called Earth.'

"I see some Actors."

'The lead Actors are called people.'

"You've done your homework."

'I talked to Archangel Gabriel while you checked on our seats. Which the Actors call stars, by the way.'

"Oh."

Time zooms by. A century. 4 millennia. We watch, fascinated.

'People sure are dumb.'

"That's what makes them easy to figure out."

'There it is again.'

"Mercies?"

'Yah. That guy was almost as mean as I was when I...' His wings droop. No need to go over that again.

'God has us watch these people. Some are pure evil. Others, I see them act like God, seeking relationships, being generous...'

"Showing mercies?"

'Yah.'

Silence.

'You think God is going to show me mercies?'

"He's being generous to you. That last meal..."

His face lights up.

"And when you banged up your right wing."

'He fixed it fast.'

Silence.

'When Jesus died on the cross the huge curtain in the temple on Earth ripped.'

"It did."

'And something happened in the heavenly temple.'

"It did."

'And it all has to do with mercies. God is forgiving the sin of people who choose to be His followers, and changing them to be blessed and holy again.'

"He is."

'And something happened in the heavenly temple.'

"It did."

'So maybe God is going to give me mercies, too.'

"It looks like it."

He smiles ear to ear for the first time in, well, since before we came to this theater. Actually, since he sinned against God.

More centuries go by. We see more mercies happen.

'You've never sinned.'

"No, I haven't."

'And yet you are fascinated by the idea of mercies, of forgiveness and bad people being made good again.'

"I am. I see even more how deeply God is committed to the well-being of all of us."

'Yes, I see it, too. No, I feel it. You don't know the relief I feel.'

He is experiencing something I never will, and I sense he is worshipping God in a way I never can. And he hasn't even got the mercies yet. He just knows they are coming. Wow.

On the way home he spots the heavenly temple. I see his wings tilt. Toward the temple this time, not away. They almost brush against the temple as he flies by. He is singing a most fantastic song to God.

Mercies. Fantastic mercies.

*Part Two***Why the Need for Mercy?****The workbook**

For this section, the questions go with the section above the question number in the text.

**Q 2-1:**

Jesus talked as if Adam and Eve were real. He talked about angels. Do you agree with Jesus that they are real? (If not, this book is not for you.)

**Q 2-2:**

A friend's daughter is sick. You lay your hands on her, pray, and she gets well.

What does the friend think of you?

What does the friend think of God?

What should the friend think of you?

What should the friend do?

**Q 2-3:**

What do people see in Jesus and in us so they are seeing the Father?

Does it matter to you that you look like God in some ways?

Does it matter to you that others look at you to see what God looks like?

**Q 2-4:**

Is it worth suffering if God wants you to?

Have you suffered loss of a loved one?

Have you suffered by covering for the stupidity of someone else (maybe a child) so they didn't have to suffer?

In what ways have you suffered things God has suffered?

When have you responded to suffering like God does?

(Peace, patience, caring, commitment...)

**Q 2-5:**

Do you choose to act like God?

Do you choose to act like God when food goes Splat! on the floor?

Do you choose to act like God when a driver cuts you off on the road?

Do you choose to act like God when a nameless faceless bureaucrat ...?

How? What did you do differently than you wanted to?

When did you make the decision about how you would act?

When you see someone in need, how much do you think about what you want versus what they need?

Jesus needed help in this life to act like God.

Where does that leave you?

What are you going to do?

When the going gets really rough, do you choose to be unconditionally committed to others?

At what cost?

God specifically enables You. So what?

Jesus is *personally* giving You the Father's lifestyle principles.

The Holy Spirit is *personally* enabling you to live by these lifestyle principles.

Infinite God, giving you personal attention. Think on it.

### Q 2-6:

God planned for Himself to suffer in this universe.

God planned for You to suffer in this universe.

God did NOT do everything He could to avoid suffering.

(Or you would be going to Hell.)

Should you do everything you can to avoid suffering?

God has a purpose for His suffering.

God has a purpose for your suffering.

Is it wise to try to avoid all suffering at all cost?

When is it wise to choose to suffer?

Have you ever been aware of contact with an angel?

Have you ever been aware of an angel watching you?

**Q 2-7:**

What can angels learn about what it is like to be saved from sin and from Hell by watching you?

You are a teacher of angels. (!)

Based on your life, how is God going to treat angels that sinned?

Based on how your church acts, how is God going to treat angels that sinned?

God has a purpose for you.

Angels have a purpose for you.

Is that enough purpose for you?

Have you plugged into that purpose?

**Q 2-8:**

Object lesson. Actor on a stage. Headline star.

What do you think of your job / role?

Is being watched live by trillions of eyes enough for you?

Is God's plan for you big enough?

Is it okay for God to seek more glory at your expense? Does God have that right?

God is a little bit bigger and a little bit more worthy than you, right? Wrong?

**Q 2-9:**

Would you give up your free will if it meant no more pain ever?

Is God worth being committed to, no matter what? Why?

Is God worth suffering for, no matter what? Why? (Also see page 33.)

In what ways are you choosing to suffer so you can show mercies?

In what ways did God choose to suffer so He could show mercies?

In what ways did God choose to suffer so You could have mercies?

In what ways did God choose to suffer so You could show mercies?

In what ways are you showing your commitment to others by suffering?

In what ways did God show His commitment to you by suffering?

In what ways do your mercies show by your suffering?

In what ways do God's mercies show by His suffering?

In what ways, and for whom, have you decided in advance to suffer for others if the need exists?

In what ways, and for whom, have you decided in advance to show mercies to others if the need exists?

Are you giving angels the opportunity to see God's mercies?

Are you giving angels a reason to praise God more as you show mercies?

**Q 2-10:**

How are you showing mercies to people?

Are you bringing glory to God by showing mercies?

God wants a relationship with You. He wants a relationship with you so He can show you mercies. Are you okay with being in a relationship so you can get mercies?

**Q 2-11:**

***Mercies are the Plan:***

I seek out relationships.

- I live by God's lifestyle principles (love God, love my neighbor, love God's followers) in my relationships.
- I choose to be unconditionally committed to others.
- I seek mercies when I do wrong.
- I give mercies when I am wronged.  
At great cost to myself.
- The biggest mercies I receive are given to me through Jesus by God who is greatly harmed by me.
- I glorify God because of the extreme mercies He shows me. I praise God and I DO mercies because of the lifestyle principles He implants in me.

- Angels learn about God's mercies by watching me. They learn about their future. I am an object lesson of the mercies they get through Jesus.
- Angels glorify God more.
- I get eternal rewards.

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***What is the depth of God's love for Me?***

***Why does God bother to save Me?***

***How Savable I am!***

## The Gift



**Jesus in my heart makes me valuable**

You can be a:

**ValuableMe- I am a bonafide headed-to-Heaven purpose-loaded person  
God is delighted to see.**

I help you be one.

**I help you see you the way God sees you and see how to improve  
so He sees you with delight**



## About the author

I write for people who want to feel significant. I help you discover why you exist, why you suffer, just how much God WANTS You in a relationship with Him, what Jesus did and is doing so you get God's mercies (this is personally important to Jesus). Jesus N Me, Jesus N Mercies, Mercies N Me- this is all planned by God so you can be truly significant.

I'm a writer. I write. I've been mad at God when He gave me info belatedly, forcing me to rewrite. I've delayed on some projects and God has had to nudge me along. Mostly I just DO IT! I write. Theology, commentaries, Bible-teaching novels- I write. Writing is hard. It is frustrating. It is fun. It is my hobby. I write. I did finally have to tell God there is no sense writing if there are no readers. So now I have a little time for promoting, too.

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Am I Important?  
What Did Jesus Do For Me?  
Did I Do the Sin to Death?  
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