

The Cost of Freedom

One of the things that kept me from wholeheartedly believing in Christ when I was younger was the fact that so much about the world just didn't make sense. If God is all-powerful, all-knowing, and all-loving, why does he let car accidents happen? Why are serial killers allowed to murder people? Why do little kids die of cancer? The more life I lived the less faithful I became, because the natural world simply doesn't reinforce the truth about a God we can neither hear nor see in immediate ways. The answer to this incongruity is found in God's Word, the Bible, but unfortunately I didn't start reading the Bible until I was twenty-five. If I had read one of the four Gospels when I was a teenager, I would've known the world's not supposed to make sense, and that if this place we're in now does begin to feel normal, then it's probably time to make a change.

I heard a friend say recently that whatever's going on in our lives, however chaotic our

environment gets, it's important to focus on God's Word because that is what's going to endure and bear fruit for us. If we sow, we will reap. If we seek, we will find. If we hope and strive and believe, we will not be disappointed because God is bigger than our problems and anything the world, or the devil, can throw at us. When one man asked Jesus for help, the father of a very sick child, Christ answered him, "If you can? All things are possible for one who believes." He then proceeded to heal the child with a word and cure yet another person who'd been suffering from an apparently incurable disease. I wish I'd have read that when I was younger, since then I'd have understood that apart from my worries God is always good, always loving, and always willing to help, and that the brokenness of the place we're in now can in no way darken the true light of Christ who exists for all eternity.

My best advice to anyone who still has their doubts about God or about the validity of the Gospel is to take a leap of faith, know that God is with you, and even though life sucks sometimes He is always

good and wants to see you through. There's a much better place being prepared for those who keep the faith and walk in obedience to God's Word, who keep his commandments and walk in love—no judgments, no grudges, no jealousy—because God loves each of us and wants us all to reach his Kingdom. Humanity fell because of pride and lack of faith. We disobeyed our Creator and ended up here instead of Paradise, which is why there is war and pain and disease today, because God gave us free will and we botched it. Through faith in Christ we can use that very same freedom to regain Paradise and live in peace forever. By earthly standards that may sound crazy, but there's a lot about the world that simply doesn't make sense.