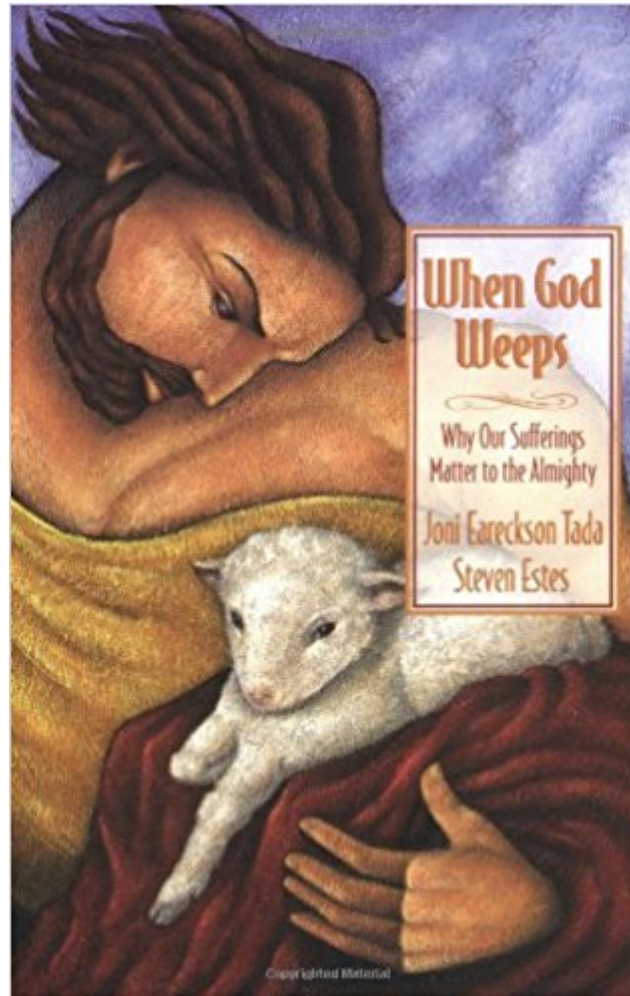




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When God Weeps



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Synopsis

If God is loving, why is there suffering? What's the difference between permitting something and ordaining it? When bad things happen, who's behind them--God or the devil? When suffering touches our lives, questions like these suddenly demand an answer. From our perspective, suffering doesn't make sense, especially when we believe in a loving and just God. After more than thirty years in a wheelchair, Joni Eareckson Tada's intimate experience with suffering gives her a special understanding of God's intentions for us in our pain. In *When God Weeps*, she and lifelong friend Steven Estes probe beyond glib answers that fail us in our time of deepest need. Instead, with firmness and compassion, they reveal a God big enough to understand our suffering, wise enough to allow it and powerful enough to use it for a greater good than we can ever imagine.

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Customer Reviews

'...a remarkable book for a world that rarely deals with the whys and wherefores of suffering....This is practical theology at its best.' -- George Grant
'The Tada-Estes team gives us a God-centered analysis of God's purposes in the pains and grief's of his human creatures. This book packs a tremendous punch, and you do not have to be in distress when you read it to be mightily enriched and encouraged.' -- J.I. Packer
'Trouble has a way of damaging our perception of and appreciation of God. But never again - not after reading this book. By two who have cut through the fog to see God clearly even when it hurts, we are led to know his love, tears, and ultimately, his joy.' -- Dr. Joseph Stowell

It's easy to trust God when things are going our way and the world makes sense. But when suffering strikes--especially seemingly senseless suffering--we are filled with doubt and stunned by events spiraling beyond our control. In the midst of suffering, we often question the very foundation of our faith--our belief in the God who says he loves us. Since our trust and obedience rest on God's character, the questions that life's tragedies force us to face are difficult, even frightening. Who is God? Can he really be trusted? What are his purposes in the face of suffering? If he can stop suffering, why doesn't he? Joni Eareckson Tada, a woman who has lived in a wheelchair for more than thirty years, and Steve Estes, a pastor and one of Joni's closest friends, explore the answers. *When God Weeps* is not so much a book about suffering as it is about God. It tackles tough questions about heaven and hell, horrors and hardships, and why God allows suffering in this life. Through a panoramic overview of what the Bible says about suffering, the authors make clear who God is, why he permits so much heartache and pain, and how it is we can trust him. With both a practical edge and heartfelt warmth, *When God Weeps* offers a message of deep reliance on God--and keys to a radical, life-transforming dependence on his love and mercy in spite of our doubts, fears, longings, and questions. It's a message much needed. Despair and discouragement are rampant. At the same time, fewer people are able to balance God's purposes and his mercies. Instead, attempting to avoid tragedy and suffering, many Christians confuse simple formulas for faith. But where does that leave the family who loses a son on a military mission? Or the young mother who isn't healed of cancer? *When God Weeps* is for people like these . . . and for thousands more who need more--much more--than answers. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This book is not for the skirmish but for those who are honestly looking to see God in the midst of our sufferings. If you like how Max Lucado writes, Steve Estes has a comparable writing style to him. Joni poses hard questions about how God deals with our sufferings and what is His agenda by allowing them to happen. I particularly like how she uses other people's trials to explain her points. This book was instrumental in helping me deal with my wife's cancer and eventual passing and where was God in it. So a shout to Joni and Steve for the book.

This best work on suffering I have ever read. Steve and Joni unpack first hand a personal walk through suffering as they have strive to make meaning of the suffering thru the lens of the bible. They have done a commendable job helping folks like me in need of a biblical peek understanding

the meaning of suffering as I walk with my family down the road of leukemia. Read it and weep for joy in times of suffering.

Excellent insite on why suffering? Plus comfort and solutions on how to live a victorious life despite adversities. Many real life stories and testimonials giving us hope for the future, both biblical and current. A real blessing, highly recommend it.

This book is really a thought provoking book. It hurt to read the first chapter. My mother was a bad diabetic and lost her kidneys, both legs, and eventually her life to this disease. Reading this first chapter and remembering all the pain was awful. I almost laid the book down but we are studying this book as a part of our ladies Bible study class. I'm glad I kept reading...it is very educational.

Great read encouragement from someone who knows what real trials and struggles are and yet keeps magnifying The Savior and God who loves us.

thank you

I have always enjoyed Joni's books. This is a great resource for our ladies prayer group which focuses on our sufferings.

Joni Eareckson Tada's insights on suffering have been forged during more than thirty years in a wheelchair. In *When God Weeps* she and her longtime friend Pastor Steve Estes explore questions of theodicy beyond the superficial. They proclaim faith in a God "big enough to understand our suffering, wise enough to allow it." This is not your superficial "God wants everyone to be healthy right now" approach! Their approach is radically God-centered. Rather than starting with man's concerns and then either apologizing for God (like open theism) or accusing him (like skepticism), they attempt to start with who God is. The first section of the book looks at God's gracious self-revelation in Christ. With infectious joy they attempt to describe the Trinitarian God's attributes: his beauty, his goodness, his sovereignty. Their point is that God is contented forever in his own glory. They paint a Biblical picture of a God of infinite passion and love. "Our call to suffer comes from a God tender beyond description" (p. 40). And this God is himself a sacrificial, suffering servant. "The Trinity planned it. The Son endured it. The Spirit enabled him. The Father rejected the Son whom he loved. Jesus, the God-man from Nazareth, perished..... This is who asks us to trust him

when he calls on us to suffer" (p.54). God hates suffering (p. 57), and yet, "(t)he Bible could be no clearer. God does ask his children of every nation... to suffer" (p. 65). Alluding to C.S. Lewis' famous line from the Narnia series, they conclude: "the sovereign God who holds your days in his hand is not safe. He's anything but. He's the King, I tell you. But he's good" (p. 93). Having explored God's nature and character in very personal terms, the authors next turn to described God's actions and works in Section II (pp.97f.). As Tada learned from long, painful experience, God's Word tells us that he uses the weak of this world to accomplish his purposes, to his glory and their (our) special honor (p.113; cf. I Cor. 12:22). In this we can have fellowship in his suffering. They note, "By itself, suffering does no good. But when we see it as the thing between God and us, it has meaning" (p.135). The Cross is the key.

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