

Day #6: All That We Don't know About Trouble

Read: John 16:33; James 1:2,12; 1 Peter 1:6-9; 1 Peter 4:12; Hebrews 12:5-13

When questioned about the existence of God, Albert Einstein is alleged to have answered: “Man knows perhaps 3 percent of all there is to know. That leaves 97 percent we do not know. Isn't there room in that 97 percent for God?”

In between the things we know are *vast expanses* of things we do not know. Navigating blindly through these voids most certainly leads to wrong conclusions, especially when those conclusions have to do with trouble in our lives.

Our loving Heavenly Father has not left us to navigate blindly through these oceans of unknowns. He has given us the necessary instrumentation – two essential guides – to lead us through space, time, and trouble so we can avoid being broken and shipwrecked on rocky cliffs of doubt.

GUIDE #1

The first divine guide is **truth**. While He hasn't revealed *every truth* that can be known, what truth He has revealed is a solid, trustworthy guide through life's hazards.

Truths we know about trouble... It is:

- EXPECTED – Jesus guaranteed we'd have trouble (John 16:33), so why be surprised at our suffering “as though something strange were happening to [us]”? (1 Peter 4:12).
- PURPOSEFUL – Peter said trials purify and strengthen faith and result in heavenly reward (1 Peter 1:5-7).
- REASSURING – Trouble sent to correct us when we err proves we belong to Him (Hebrews 12:5-13).
- GOOD – Paul said God redeems good out of trouble (Romans 8:28).

GUIDE #2

The second divine guide is **faith**. Faith is the great bridger-of-gaps, the connector-of-dots that fills the spaces between the truths we know. Simply put, the “math” of troubling times is: truth + faith = confidence.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Of the four truths about suffering listed here –expected, purposeful, reassuring, good – which one do you find especially strengthening vis-à-vis suffering? Why did you choose that one?

What does it mean that faith bridges gaps and connects the dots during times of deep trials?