

**Construction:** We build some faith or belief in God or the Bible.

**Deconstruction:** Some expectation that we have about God or the Bible is not working for us anymore, so we begin to dismantle it.

**Reconstruction:** We get some help from others and a new and stronger faith emerges that helps us on our spiritual journey – and spiritual transformation takes place.

*New York Times* Bestselling Author of  
*THE REASON FOR GOD* and *THE PRODIGAL GOD*

# TIMOTHY KELLER

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Walking with God  
through  
Pain and Suffering

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**Construction:** If I follow Jesus, He'll keep me from suffering.

**Deconstruction:** I'm experiencing suffering, so a good and powerful God must not exist.

# Job

- 1) God is not punishing him
- 2) We don't know why he's suffering
- 3) People who think they know why are wrong

<sup>3</sup> He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain. Like one from whom people hide their faces he was despised, and we held him in low esteem.

Isaiah 53:3 (NIV)

33 ... In this world you will have trouble.

John 16:33b (NIV)

As Christ-followers,  
we hurt with hope

<sup>1</sup> How long, Lord? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me? <sup>2</sup> How long must I wrestle with my thoughts and day after day have sorrow in my heart?

Psalm 13:1-2 (NIV)



<sup>1</sup> My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?  
Why are you so far from saving me, so far from my  
cries of anguish?

Psalm 22:1 (NIV)

<sup>9</sup> I say to God my Rock, "Why have you forgotten me? Why must I go about mourning, oppressed by the enemy?"

Psalm 42:9 (NIV)

<sup>5</sup> But I trust in your unfailing love; my heart rejoices in your salvation.

Psalms 13:5 (NIV)

<sup>22</sup> I will declare your name to my people; in the assembly I will praise you.

Psalms 22:22 (NIV)

<sup>11</sup> ... Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God.

Psalms 42:11b (NIV)

33 ... In this world you will have trouble.

John 16:33b (NIV)

33 ... In this world you will have trouble. **But take heart! I have overcome the world.**

John 16:33b (NIV)



<sup>18</sup> The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and He saves those who are crushed in spirit.

Psalm 34:18 (NIV)

<sup>26</sup> If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it. <sup>27</sup> Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.

1 Corinthians 12:26-27 (NIV)



<sup>15</sup> Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn.

Romans 12:15 (NIV)