



A Crisis of Faith

BY BENJAMIN
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There comes a time in every believer's life when the foundation of faith is shaken. Not by abstract theological debate or cultural pressure, but by deeply personal pain. Grief, betrayal, disillusionment, and the raw ache of unmet expectations can stir up questions we never thought we'd ask: *Where is God? Why did this happen? Can I still trust Him?*

I remember the tragic death of my brother in a house fire—he was just 12 years old. That kind of loss does something to your gut. The shock and sorrow left a hollow space that no words could fill. Then my wife's best friend and would-be maid of honor in our wedding passed away after a long battle with cancer of her own. I thought I had already reached the depths of sorrow.

Not long after, I lost my best friend and former college roommate to stomach cancer at just 25 years old. One blow after another, life wore me down. The vision I had of a peaceful, blessed life had crumbled.

Yet, even in the wreckage, Scripture spoke truth into the silence: *"Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us."* (Romans 5:3-5)

Pain isn't proof that God has abandoned us; it's an invitation to grow deeper roots. As Peter reminds us: *"And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Messiah, after you have suffered a little while, will Himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast."* (1 Peter 5:10)

When Those We Trust Let Us Down

Some wounds don't come from life's circumstances but from people we trusted. I once looked up to a spiritual mentor, worship leader, and teacher who turned out to be a sexual predator. I've personally known spiritual leaders who manipulated, abused, or betrayed their calling. These aren't just headlines—they're stories which stain the soul.



David wrote: *"Even my closest friend whom I trusted, the one who ate my bread, has lifted his heel against me."* (Psalm 41:9) And again:

"For it is not an enemy who insults me—I could have handled that—nor is it someone who hates me and who now arises against me—I could have hidden myself from him—but it is you—a man whom I treated as my equal—my personal confidant, my close friend! We had good fellowship together; and we even walked together in the house of God!" (Psalm 55:12-14)

We grieve not only the betrayal, but the distortion of what is holy. Yet, the failure of a man doesn't invalidate the message of the Messiah. The Gospel must be measured by Yeshua Himself, not those who fail to follow Him.

"Even if my father and mother abandon me, the LORD cares for me." (Psalm 27:10)

Yeshua Himself was betrayed, abused, and rejected. When we suffer in this way, we are drawn into a deeper fellowship with Him:

"For just as we share abundantly in the sufferings of Messiah, so also our comfort abounds through Messiah."

(2 Corinthians 1:5)

Misunderstanding the Gospel

Sometimes what falters is not faith in God, but faith in what we thought the Gospel has promised. Many of us were led to believe that following Yeshua would make life easier, more secure, and even comfortable. But that was never His message.

"And He said to all, 'If anyone would come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow Me.'"

(Luke 9:23)

The Gospel is not a promise of ease, but of eternal hope. It doesn't guarantee we'll avoid suffering—it guarantees we won't face it alone.

"Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Messiah, if indeed we share in His sufferings in order that we may also share in His glory. I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us." (Romans 8:17-18)

The joy of salvation transcends circumstance. It anchors us when everything else falls apart.



The Judgment Against God

At the heart of many crises of faith lies the age-old question: *If God is good and all powerful, why does He allow suffering?* Some judge God by the standard of how they prefer He would run the world. When God doesn't measure up to these expectations, they abandon their faith in Him.

We must remember the story is not over. The world is broken by sin, and the righteous often suffer alongside the wicked. But Yeshua did not promise to eliminate trouble—He promised to overcome it:

"I have told you these things, so that in Me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." (John 16:33)

Until He returns to restore all things, we are called to bring glimpses of justice and healing into the world. We are to reveal His nature and character.

"Do not pay anyone back evil for evil, but focus your thoughts on what is right in the sight of all people ... If possible, so far as it depends on you, live in peace with all people... 'Vengeance belongs to Me. I will pay them back,' declares the Lord'." (Romans 12:17-19)

God's Standards Conflict with a Chosen Lifestyle

For many, the deepest struggle of faith arises not from external circumstances, but from an internal war between God's standards and our personal desires.

There comes a moment when we realize that what we want does not align with what God commands.



Perhaps it's a relationship we idolize, a habit we don't want to break, or a lifestyle we've grown comfortable in. And suddenly, following Yeshua feels costly—not just emotionally or socially, but existentially.

The words of Matthew 16:25 become piercing: *"For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it."* The Gospel is not a path of personal fulfillment—it is a call to surrender. And yet, this surrender is not loss, but gain. For in giving up what we thought defined us, we discover who we truly are in Messiah.

Romans 6:6 reminds us, *"Our old self was crucified with Him so that the body of sin might be rendered powerless."* What feels like death to self is actually the beginning of new life. God's standards are not arbitrary—they are the pathway to restoration. When we submit to His design, we find that His boundaries are not barriers, but blessings, leading us into true peace and identity.

When Faith Feels Like Holding On By a Thread

Faith doesn't mean we never doubt, never grieve, or never question. Faith means we keep holding on, even when everything in us wants to let go. We remember that Yeshua understands every ache. He bore our griefs and carried our sorrows. Sometimes, the most profound act of faith is not bold



proclamation, but quiet endurance. Sometimes, it's simply saying: *"I don't understand, but I trust You."*

If you're in that place, take heart. You're not alone. And you're not forgotten. Yeshua, who was betrayed, misunderstood, and crucified, walks with you. And one day, your tears will be wiped away, and your faith refined like gold.

Until then, let us be a people who persevere. Not because life is easy, but because our hope is real.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Benjamin Juster". The signature is stylized with a large, flowing "B" and a long, sweeping underline.

Benjamin Juster
Editor in Chief



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of *personal fulfillment* –
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