

Why I'm Dissatisfied with God

If I had really spoken this way to others, I would have been a traitor to your people.
(Psalm 73:15, NLT)

God isn't afraid of my questions. Other believers have had them, too, like David. God isn't afraid of my disappointment. Other believers have had them, too, like Jeremiah.

God isn't afraid of my frustrations. Other believers have had them, too, like Habakkuk. God isn't afraid of my feelings of abandonment. Other believers have had them, too, like Job.

Even Jesus says, *My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death*
(Matthew 26:38).

St. John of the Cross (1542–1591), a Spanish Carmelite priest, writes about the *dark night of the soul*. And that has been the experience of believers throughout generations.

When I became a Christian, I expected God to deliver me from the human experience. I thought faith would make me immune to human struggles. Little did I know that faith's greater purpose is to see me through struggles. I learned that the hard way.

Much of the Bible's narrative concerns matters of human struggle. And while we shouldn't fear them or think that they're somehow unique to us, we also shouldn't underestimate them either. Let's explore this a bit further.

To better manage my dissatisfaction with God, I will. . .

1. Unmask the Illusion of _____.

1) This is where _____ went astray.

"For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." (Genesis 3:5)

2) This is why _____ takes root.

"My people have committed two sins: They have forsaken me, the spring of living water, and have dug their own cisterns, broken cisterns that cannot hold water." (Jeremiah 2:13)

And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.
(Philippians 4:19)

2. Weather the Agony of _____.

"Look up at the sky and count the stars—if indeed you can count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be." (Genesis 15:5)

1) With God, good things are _____.

For no matter how many promises God has made, they are "Yes" in Christ.
(2 Corinthians 1:20)

2) With God, good things might be _____.

Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had borne him no children. But she had an Egyptian slave named Hagar; 2 so she said to Abram, "The Lord has kept me from having children. Go, sleep with my slave; perhaps I can build a family through her." Abram agreed to what Sarai said.
(Genesis 16:1,2)

Now the Lord was gracious to Sarah as he had said, and the Lord did for Sarah what he had promised. . . . 5 Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him.
(Genesis 21:1,5)

Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him.
(James 1:12)

3. Endure the Sting of _____.

1) Comparison will _____ me. (Read Psalm 73:1-14, ERV)

A heart at peace gives life to the body, but envy rots the bones. (Proverbs 14:30)

Don't envy sinners, but always respect the Lord. (Proverbs 23:17, NCV)

2) Contentment will _____ me. (Psalm 73:18-20, NLT)

12 I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. 13 I can do all this through him who gives me strength.
(Philippians 4:12,13)

Psalm 73:21-26, NLT

Heavy experiences—feelings of being deprived by God, seasons of delay with God, and painful disappointment in God—are Christian experiences. The only way past this pain is through it. Pretending doesn't make it go away. Instead, I will realign my thoughts and trust in God's unfailing love, His perfect understanding, and His transformative power, as Romans 8:28 reads: *And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.* And this victory is mine!