

# PSALM 86

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Trusting God In the Struggle

Fellowship  
CHURCH



A photograph of a hospital room, likely an intensive care unit, with a patient lying in a bed. The room is filled with medical equipment, including monitors and IV stands. The image has a blue overlay, and the text is centered over the middle of the frame.

***How can we trust God,  
even in the struggle?***

# Psalm 86

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- Well-known truths about God's character
  - God is gracious (v3, 16)
  - God is good and forgiving (v5)
  - God is merciful and loving (v5, 13, 15)
  - God is faithful (v15)
  - God is slow to anger (v15)
  - God hears and answers prayer (v7, 17)

# Psalm 86

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- Well-known truths about God's character
  - God is the Preserver of Life (v2)
  - God is the Deliverer (v13)
  - God is our Savior (v16)
  - God is our Helper (v17)
  - God is our Comforter (v17)
  - God is God alone (v10)

**1** Incline your ear, O LORD, and answer me, for I am poor and needy. **2** Preserve my life, for I am godly; save your servant, who trusts in you—you are my God. **3** Be gracious to me, O Lord, for to you do I cry all the day. **4** Gladden the soul of your servant, for to you, O Lord, do I lift up my soul.

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**PSALM 86:1-4**

# The Posture of Trust: Humility

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- David acknowledges his position before God
  - He admits his dependence

*Incline your ear, O LORD, and answer me, for I am poor and needy.*

**PSALM 86:1**

**1** Incline your ear, O LORD, and answer me, for I am poor and needy. **2** Preserve my life, for I am godly; save your servant, who trusts in you—you are my God. **3** Be gracious to me, O Lord, for to you do I cry all the day. **4** Gladden the soul of your servant, for to you, O Lord, do I lift up my soul.

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**PSALM 86:1-4**

# The Posture of Trust: Humility

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- David acknowledges his position before God
  - He admits his dependence
  - He recognizes his relationship with God

*Incline your ear, O LORD, and answer me, for I am poor and needy.*

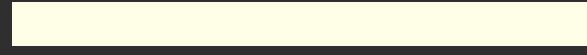
**PSALM 86:1**

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# LORD

*Yehovah*  
The Existing One

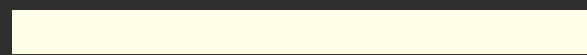
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# Lord

*Adonai*

Lord, Master



**2** Preserve my life, for I am godly; save your servant, who trusts in you—you are **my God**. **3** Be gracious to me, O Lord, for to you do I cry all the day. **4** Gladden the soul of your servant, for to you, O Lord, do I lift up my soul.

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**PSALM 86:2-4**

In the day of my trouble I call upon you,  
for you answer me.

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**PSALM 86:7**

**2** Preserve my life, for I am godly; save your servant, who trusts in you—you are my God. **3** Be gracious to me, O Lord, for to you do **I cry all the day**. **4** Gladden the soul of your servant, for to you, O Lord, do I lift up my soul.

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**PSALM 86:2-4**

# The Reason We Trust

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- God loves us
- His way is the only way that works!

*There is none like you among the gods, O Lord, nor are there any works like yours.*

**PSALM 86:8**

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# Our Response

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# Our Response

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- **We must want to learn his way**

*Teach me your way, O LORD, that I may walk in your truth; unite my heart to fear your name.*

**PSALM 86:11**

THOSE WHO TRUST  
IN GOD HAVE A  
DESIRE TO  
LEARN HIS WAY



# Our Response

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- We must want to learn his way
- We must **walk in his truth**

*Teach me your way, O LORD, that I may walk in your truth; unite my heart to fear your name.*

**PSALM 86:11**

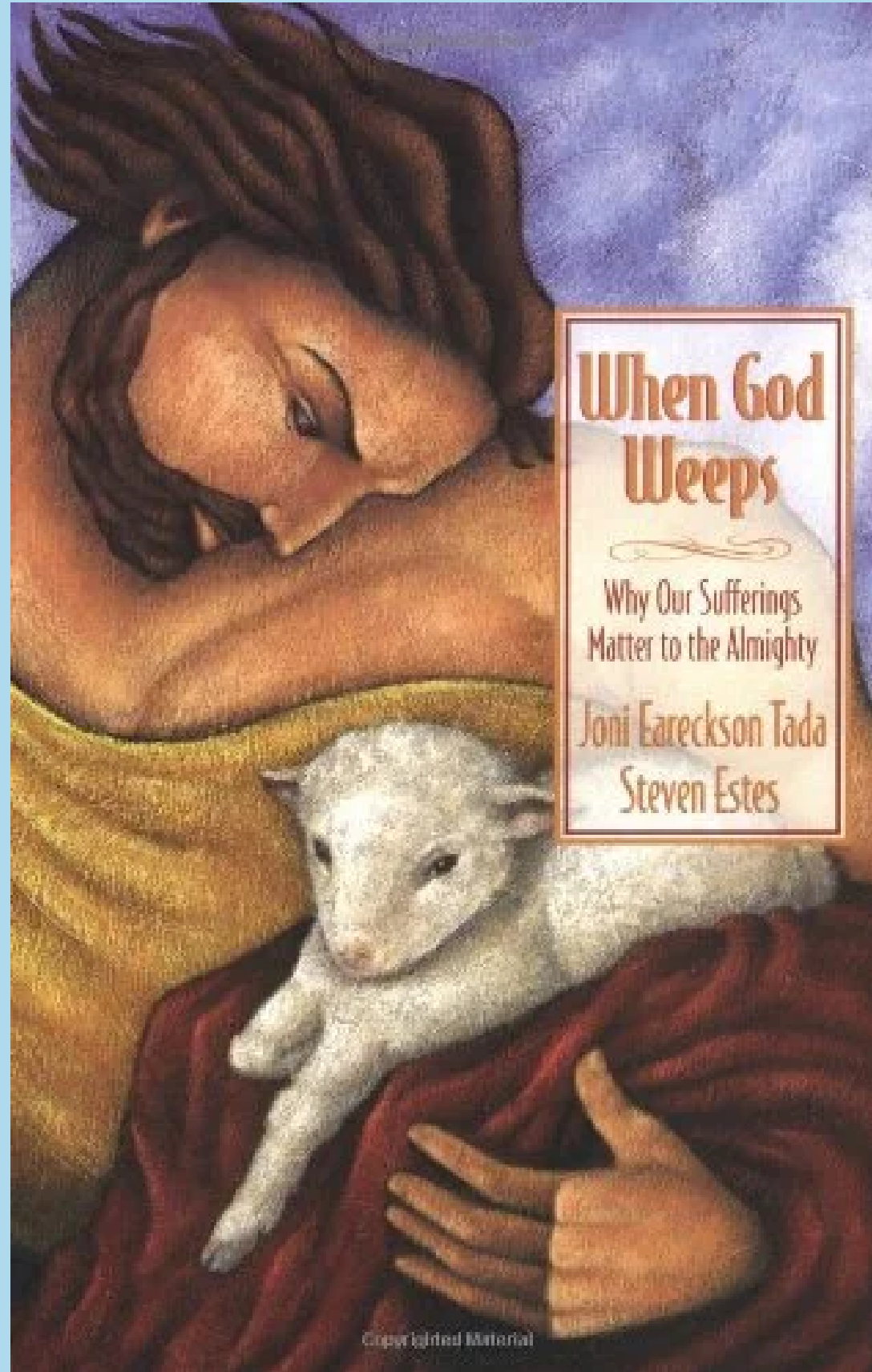
# Our Response

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- We must want to learn his way
- We must walk in his truth
- We must have a **wholehearted devotion to God**

*Teach me your way, O LORD, that I may walk in your truth; unite my heart to fear your name.*

**PSALM 86:11**



## When God Weeps

If God is loving, why is there suffering?

What's the difference between permitting something and ordaining it?

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.

"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



**Joni Eareckson Tada** is the founder and president of Joni and Friends, an organization that accelerates Christian outreach in the disability community. Joni is the author of numerous books, including *More Precious Than Silver*, *Heaven, Diamonds in the Dust*, and *A Step Further*, winner of the Gold Medallion Award. She is a successful artist, writer, and speaker. Joni and her husband, Ken, have been married for nearly twenty years. [www.joniandfriends.org](http://www.joniandfriends.org)



**Steven Estes** holds Master of Divinity and Master of Theology degrees from Westminster Theological Seminary and Columbia Bible College. He is senior pastor of Community Evangelical Free Church in Elverson, Pennsylvania, where he lives with his wife, Verna, and their eight children. He coauthored *A Step Further* with Joni Eareckson Tada in 1978 and authored *Called to Die*, the biography of slain missionary linguist Chet Bitterman.

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Joni Erickson Tada

“[Suffering] is wanting what you don’t have and having what you don’t want. In heaven you will finally possess what you’ve always wanted: fulfillment of your deepest desires.”

Show me a sign of your favor, that those who hate me may see and be put to shame because you, LORD, have helped me and comforted me.

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**PSALM 86:17**

# Our Response

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- We must want to learn his way
- We must walk in his truth
- We must have a wholehearted devotion to God
- We must **watch for signs that he is at work**

*Show me a sign of your favor, that those who hate me may see and be put to shame because you, LORD, have helped me and comforted me.*

**PSALM 86:17**

“When you buy a Hebrew slave, he shall serve six years, and in the seventh he shall go out free...but if the slave plainly says, ‘I love my master...I will not go out free, then his master...shall pierce his ear with an awl; and he shall serve him forever.’”

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**EXODUS 21:2-5**

**WANT TO SEE GOD WORK?**

**LOOK WITH  
EYES OF FAITH**

# Our Response

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- We must want to learn his way
- We must walk in his truth
- We must have a wholehearted devotion to God
- We must **watch for signs that he is at work**

*Show me a sign of your favor, that those who hate me may see and be put to shame because you, LORD, have helped me and comforted me.*

**PSALM 86:17**

**GOD WANTS TO USE**

**YOUR STRUGGLE**

**TO REVEAL**

**HIS GLORY**

