



Session 8

**GOD'S GOODNESS IS AN  
ANCHOR IN MYSTERY, TRAGEDY,  
AND DISAPPOINTMENT**

*It is not the task of Christianity to provide easy answers to every question, but to make us progressively aware of a mystery. God is not so much the object of our knowledge as the cause of our wonder.*

—KALLISTOS WARE





## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss the following quote:

*It is not the task of Christianity to provide easy answers to every question, but to make us progressively aware of a mystery. God is not so much the object of our knowledge as the cause of our wonder.*

—KALLISTOS WARE

- a. Explain the connection between people coming up with “bad theology” and how they respond to mystery.
2. What does it mean that bold faith stands on the shoulders of quiet trust?
  3. **Read Romans 8:28.** Explain how this passage of Scripture is an anchor during mystery (when prayers don't get instantly answered or we experience disappointment).
  4. Explain the difference between Matthew 11:12 (*the violence of faith*) and Mark 10:15 (*receiving a gift as a child*).
    - a. Discuss how you can know when to “rest” as a child or engage in the violent act of faith.
  5. Discuss why it's *not* helpful to ask God *why*? In these times, what do you need most from God? (It's not necessarily answers that can be grasped by the mind.)
  6. Discuss the difference between healthy mourning and unhealthy mourning. How should mourning and loss drive you into the Presence of God?
  7. **Read Proverbs 6:30-31.** Discuss what it means to pray for vindication using this Scripture as a reference point.
  8. How can the vindication of God released in your life *actually reveal His goodness* to the people around you?

### **ACTIVATION EXERCISE: RESPONDING TO THE MYSTERY**

In this session, Pastor Bill walks viewers through some of the undiscussed facts concerning loss, disappointment, and mystery. There is an appropriate response to mystery, which results from loss. It's not to live in extended mourning, nor is it right to reject mourning and pretend everything is okay. It's healthy to mourn in such a way that we are drawn into God's Presence, receive His loving touch, and then emerge from that season with an expectation of vindication. It's not vindication to fulfill a longing for personal revenge, but more so a desire that the goodness of God would be made visible on our lives because of His restorative touch on every area that experienced loss.

### **FAITH IN ACTION: ASK FOR HEAVEN'S VINDICATION AND INCREASED ANOINTING**

This will be a time of corporate prayer. If you sense the Holy Spirit directing, you can transition from the time of group prayer into prayer partners or individual prayer. This is a very sensitive time, particularly for those who have experienced any measure of loss for which there is mystery in their lives.

Remind everyone of the assurance of Romans 8:28 and that God's summons is not to act like we've never experienced tragedy, but more to respond to it correctly.

Prayer directions:

- Pray for a *healing* mourning period for every person who has experienced loss—where they can go into God's Presence and share their heart with Him. Encourage them to receive His love rather than trying to get all of their questions answered.
- Pray for a *discernment of seasons*—so that people are not ensnared by extended mourning, but recognize the healthy time to mourn and the time to transition.
- Pray for a *revelation of vindication*—that those who have experienced loss and tragedy would see their mystery as an invitation to vindication. What produced mystery in their lives is actually the very target they are being called to pursue in prayer with an expectation of increased breakthrough. It's not about reacting to the thief who stole (the devil), but it's about living in response to the Father who wants to show His goodness in an extreme way.
- Pray for *recompense and restoration* on the basis of Proverbs 6:30-31. Declare and announce restoration over everything that has been lost, as the Lord makes *all things new*.

## GOD IS GOOD LEADER'S GUIDE

- Pray for an *anointing* over those who experienced loss. Declare that this anointing, released through their lives, would destroy the very things that caused loss, tragedy, and disappointment.
- Pray for the *demonstration of God's goodness* in unusual ways as people see God's vindication releasing restoration and anointing in your life.