

Sometimes the Answer is “No.” [Suicide]

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Oh that I might have my request, that God would grant what I hope for, that God would be willing to crush me, to let loose his hand and cut me off! Then I would still have this consolation-- my joy in unrelenting pain-- that I had not denied the words of the Holy One. -- Job 6: 8-10 [NIV]

[Read the keynote scripture aloud first] I was very young when I asked God for the sort of thing Job asked for: I wanted to die. It was before my parents and I had moved from Canada; so, I know the oldest I could have been was 6.

I don't know if something had happened to make me feel bad and afraid. Maybe I made myself forget what scared me. I know I wasn't sick or hurt like Job was, Still, I was terrified of the future. I trusted God and felt it would be O.K. to go to where Jesus was. I knew that meant I'd have to die. So, I asked God for that.

Whatever had happened to me, I was afraid it would make me a bad person. I wanted to be with God before that had a chance to happen, too. Job felt that way. He was afraid his pain would make him curse God. He hoped God would let him die before he had a chance to do that.

Sometimes, the answer to a prayer is “No.” Since I lived through the night I made my prayer, I figured I had my answer. I never asked God to die again. Now that I look back at my life, I'm glad I had the chance to live it. So far, thanks to the strength and courage God gives me, I have not denied God. God kept Job alive, also. Job never denied God, either, and things did work out well for him at last.

A lot of people seem to think kids can't feel things strongly. I know that's wrong. Young feelings are very strong, especially when you have nothing to compare the pain with. Also, time passes differently. A year can feel like forever when you are six. When you are fifty, ten years can feel like only one.

Too many young people, when they feel really bad, go further than praying about death. Too many young people hurt and kill themselves every year. Someday, you or someone you know might feel so bad that dying looks better than living.

It isn't crazy to feel that way. But, it is a dangerous way to feel. God gave you life. If you feel like dying but don't die, the answer you want to hear isn't the answer you are being given. Sometimes, God's answer to a prayer is “No.”

People in pain should get help, talk to people they trust, and pray. Whatever reason people might have to want to die, God has better reasons for wanting them to live. I'm glad, today, that I trusted God's answer. I hope everyone will trust God in the same way. Let's live our lives, for Heaven's sake.