

# SEYM Worship Sharing • November 14, 2020

## *Working Through It*

“I think suffering has made you wiser. It doesn’t always do that, you know. Suffering can destroy the soul; it can make people mean where they once were generous, small where once they were great. It can turn people mad...But you have not broken. You entered your suffering, and it has made you better understand the suffering of others.”  
---Alison Croggon

“Somewhere out in the darkness, a phoenix was singing in a way Harry had never heard before: a stricken lament of terrible beauty. And Harry felt, as he had felt about phoenix song before, that the music was inside him, not without; it was his own grief turned magically to song that echoed across the grounds and through the castle windows.”  
---J.K. Rowling

“I really believe that, when someone else does us harm, we’re connected to that mistreatment like a chain... So what if forgiveness, rather than being like a pansy way of saying it’s okay, is actually a way of wielding bolt cutters and snapping the chain that links us. Like it is saying, what you did was so not okay that I refuse to be connected to it anymore. Forgiveness is about being a freedom fighter. And free people are dangerous people. Free people aren’t controlled by the past. Free people laugh more than others. Free people see beauty where others do not. Free people are not easily offended. Free people are unafraid to speak truth to stupid. Free people are not chained to resentment. That’s worth fighting for. There really is a light that shines in the darkness, and that the darkness cannot, will not, shall not, overcome it.”  
---Nadia Bolz-Weber

“For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.”  
---Ephesians 6:12 (KJV)

“You can safely assume you’ve created God in your own image when it turns out that God hates all the same people you do.”  
---Anne Lamott

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## Queries

1. How have suffering and grief helped in my own spiritual formation? Where did I feel God at work in me during these times?
2. When have I felt a sense of transformation in my own call to ministry and how did I recognize it happening?
3. What are areas in which I am still struggling to be free or am not living an abundant life?
4. How can I recognize when I have ‘created God in [my] own image’ and how can I redraw that image so it is a reflection only of Love?