

Suggested Interview Questions for Philip Yancey
author of *The Question That Never Goes Away*
(Zondervan, January 7, 2014)

Your first book, written at age 27, was the first in which you grappled with the question of why God allows evil and suffering in the world. What have you learned over the years since the publication of *Where Is God When It Hurts?* that shaped its sequel, *The Question that Never Goes Away*?

Can the “why” question ever be answered satisfactorily?

You are frequently asked to speak in places that have suffered terribly such as Newtown, Connecticut in the aftermath of the school massacre last December. What do you say to people who’ve lost their own children, or friends and neighbors, in such a horrific way?

As a journalist covering stories of manmade tragedy or natural disaster, people often told you that Christians made things worse with contradictory and confusing counsel. What are some examples of things *not* to say to people who’ve experienced a tragedy?

It’s one thing to know what *not* to say and quite another to know how to respond. What can ordinary people do?

You visited Japan after the catastrophic tsunami. What did you learn about aspects of Japanese culture and tradition that were helpful and healing in the aftermath of the disaster?

What is the two-part test you’ve developed before offering counsel to a suffering person?

It’s clear that God does not respond to the human predicament by waving a magic wand to eradicate evil and pain. How then does God respond?

What is the Christian view of suffering?

Your father died from polio when you were a toddler, after thousands of people had prayed for his healing. How did that “cloud of unanswered prayer” affect your understanding of the problem of pain and prayer?

Have you ever faced intense suffering personally? Did it test your faith?