

# Garden to Garden — Part 1

## FAQ - The Garden of Gethsemane and Jesus' Example in Suffering.

### Q: Why is the Garden of Gethsemane so significant in Jesus' story?

**A:** The Garden of Gethsemane is significant because it's where Jesus began to experience the full weight of humanity's sin and God's wrath. It is described as a place of immense pressure for Him, similar to an olive being pressed in a press, with the "pressure of our sin" and "the pressure of God's wrath." This experience, before the physical torture, is where Jesus' suffering truly begins, making it a pivotal point in His journey to the cross and ultimately to restoring creation to its original glory by overcoming sin and death. It is also important because it mirrors the Garden of Eden where sin entered into the world and ultimately where God made the promise that sin would be crushed by one coming from the seed of a woman, a promise fulfilled in Jesus.

### Q: How does Jesus' suffering in the Garden of Gethsemane relate to our own suffering?

**A:** Jesus' suffering in Gethsemane, beyond serving as atonement for our sins, serves as an example for us to follow when we face our own struggles. Although His suffering is far greater than any we will face, His handling of it through prayer, honesty, and submission offers a model for us to do the same. He demonstrates how to respond to suffering not by escaping it, but by walking through it, and He assures us that He fully understands our own pain and grief. Furthermore, Jesus' suffering and ultimate victory is seen as an enabling factor; his life is now our life and he carries our burdens with us.

### Q: What is the significance of Jesus' prayer in Gethsemane?

**A:** Jesus' prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane is significant for several reasons. Firstly, it shows us that in the hardest moments of our lives, we should turn to God in prayer. It's also significant for its honesty. Jesus expresses His deep sorrow, even to the point of feeling like He was dying. Further, His prayer demonstrates submission to God's will, even when it meant suffering. He asks if there's another way but ultimately submits to God's plan, showing trust in God's love and purpose even in the midst of profound suffering. This example of prayer, honesty, and submission becomes a model for believers facing their own trials.

### Q: What does it mean that Jesus was "honest" in Gethsemane?



**A:** Jesus was “honest” in Gethsemane by openly expressing his sorrow and trouble to His closest disciples. He didn’t try to hide his emotions or pretend that He wasn’t struggling. His words, “My soul is very sorrowful, even to death”, reveal the depth of his despair. This honesty sets an example for believers, showing that we don’t need to pretend we are fine when we’re not. Instead, we are encouraged to share our struggles openly with trusted friends and with God and to be transparent about our feelings.

**Q: How does Jesus show “submission” in the Garden of Gethsemane?**

**A:** Jesus shows submission by acknowledging the weight of the suffering that He was about to endure, and expressing his desire for another way “My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me”. However, He ultimately surrenders to God’s plan, saying, “Nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will.” This act of submission implies a trust in God’s wisdom and love, even when it means enduring extreme hardship. Jesus relinquishes His rights over His own life and chooses obedience to His Father’s will, setting a powerful example for followers to do the same in their own difficult circumstances.

**Q: How did Jesus show “concern for others” in His most difficult moment?**

**A:** Even in the midst of His overwhelming suffering, Jesus showed concern for His disciples. He found them sleeping not because they were apathetic, but because they were “exhausted with sorrow.” Jesus didn’t rebuke them with condemnation but rather encouraged them to stay awake and to pray so that they may not enter into temptation. This demonstrates Jesus’ compassion and care, as he prioritizes their wellbeing and spiritual protection even during his own crisis, reminding us to care for those around us even when we are suffering.

**Q: How does Jesus demonstrate “confidence” in the Garden of Gethsemane, and what does that mean for us?**

**A:** Jesus demonstrates “confidence” by facing the betrayal, arrest, and subsequent suffering head-on. Despite His anguish, He doesn’t try to escape or hide when the soldiers come to arrest Him, and instead proclaims “Let’s go.” He shows a deep assurance that He would ultimately be victorious, walking confidently into the nightmare knowing he would walk out of the tomb. For us, this demonstrates a confidence we can have in God, even when our world feels like it’s falling apart. We are not left to our own devices. We have Christ in us and we can be confident of God’s faithfulness and His presence with us in our difficult moments. Furthermore, His example is not just something to admire but is an enablement for us because, as the source reminds us, it is no longer we who live but Christ in us.

