“I am a work of art signed by God but He is not done; in fact, He has just begun. Can you see the fingerprints of God on you.” Lygon Stevens

Lygon Stevens was a force of nature. Often described as an “old soul” with an intense relationship with God, she climbed 39 mountains higher than 14,000 feet. On January 10, 2008, Lygon and her brother Niklis were caught in a horrible avalanche that resulted in their family changing forever. Lygon did not survive the avalanche, while her brother somehow hiked 8 miles and was rescued 20 hours later.

In our small group a few years back, we watched the documentary “The Time to Live is Now,” about that devastating day in the cold of winter. What was haunting was not the beautiful story of a God-fearing woman meeting her Maker, but the struggle of Niklis facing the devastating question of, “Why her and not me?”

It is the rawest question we as believers must face. “Why my loved one God?”, “Why did that happen to me? I’ve lived a faithful life, God?”, “Why would you make me suffer so much when I love You so much?”, “Why would you save them but not mine?”

The above questions are the truest wrestling with God and are questions that in many ways we all face in this broken world. I will never forget the poignant crescendo of the movie when Niklis asked, “God, I need to know why or I’m done—I’m out. I will believe in You but I’m out unless You can answer why this happened right now!” “Why was she taken?” “Why did I remain alive?” “If God is in control of all things and with us at all times then why does a sovereign and almighty God work such cruelty into our lives?”

Niklis, although resistant turned to the book of Job, and looked at the question that Job asked God over and over. Job’s question boiled down to, “Why? Why has this happened?” “I wish God would step down and accuse me in my wrong doings because at least then I would be justified in my sufferings.” But Job was righteous and without sin. God’s response was giving Job 137 unanswerable questions.

Niklis found that Job repents not because sin but because he doubted God. In this horrific event, Niklas somehow came to the realization that changing the question of why and focusing on God and His enormity was how he could deal with the travesty.

I know in a 500-word essay it sounds easy, but I know it is not. It is a lifetime of wrestling, a lifetime of doubt, and a lifetime of searching. The older I get the more I realize my own lack of understanding and my own made up ideals of who I expect God to be. The “thinker” in me weighs me down like that of Job. Although the questions are there, they allow me to know my dependence on our mighty God and hold to His Almightiness.

 Information from “The Time to Live is Now” published by Day of Discovery