

Dear God,

Hi, it's me again. Sorry to bother you. I have a tough question. And I'm losing a lot of sleep.

It's this whole physician assisted dying or suicide thing here in Colorado. Many of my Christian, Muslim, and Jewish friends tell me it's wrong, but why can't people have a choice when they die? Will this assisted dying really hurt anyone? Why did you design a world with so much pain and suffering?

I guess there's the healthcare professionals. They might be hurt. I know there's lots who don't want to kill these suffering people. Maybe if we made it a law in Colorado that they have to refer to someone else who will?

But what if they can't in their consciences? Will they lose their medical licenses? That will only leave more in Colorado without good healthcare. And would that just cause more pain and suffering in the end? I just don't know what to do.

Then there's my friends who are police officers. They are worried they might have to use physical force to pry away depressed teenagers who want to die from horrified parents. Or wrench away the elderly from their grandchildren's arms. Will the screams ever go away in their heads? I hope my three children when they become teenagers never ask to die. I don't know if I could go on living myself.

I've always wondered if a person can change their mind after they die. Like if they kill themselves then discover they made a bad decision? I mean, when they get to heaven—they will go to heaven, right?

I know depressed people can get better. But what if they don't? Didn't you give man the ability to control his own destiny? I learned from the Bible that man is made in the image of God. What does that mean exactly? And that when a sparrow falls to the ground you know about it. Yet you care more about us than sparrows. That's kind of cool! I also read your Spirit gives us life. Is it wrong to take a life? Would you be angry? Would you hold that against me?

But the person is suffering! What do you expect me to do?!

Providing better end-of-life care in Colorado would help, I suppose.

I often think of Christopher Reeve. Paralyzed from the neck down. What an inspiration he was to millions of people. He got standing ovations almost everywhere he went. He was courageous, with a fight to live. A real hero!

But aren't the people who want to end their suffering heroes too? If a paralyzed person wants to die, shouldn't that be their right? And what about the courageous doctors who will administer the lethal drugs? Aren't they heroes too? This is all so confusing to me. Nothing is making sense....

What's worse, I keep having these nightmares. I dream that I get out of bed, go to the bathroom, turn on the tap, and blood comes gushing out. I run to another tap. Same thing. I turn on the shower. Blood. I look down at my hands. Blood!

I suddenly wake up, gasping for air. I look down at my hands. They are clean.

I realize you are very busy. And I know there's lots of people who need your help. But I truly need your assistance on this one.

My patients are counting on me.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jones

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