

WHY DOES GOD

*Allow Bad Things
To Happen To*

GOOD PEOPLE?



Sermon  SNAPSHOTS

Why Does God allow bad things to happen to good people?

Some people suffer more than others; some differently than others; and some more openly than others. But one thing is certain: everyone suffers! And, just as surely as we struggle with questions like: "Who am I? Why am I here? Where am I going?" we also struggle with the problem of suffering. In truth, there is no single answer to the problem of suffering, for the Bible reveals many. Let's give some thought to this.

Note two valuable implications of our topic-question:

- First, Bad things DO happen to good people! (cf. Paul, 2Tm.1:12; Jesus, 1Pt.2:21-22)
- Second, God ALLOWS -- He does not cause -- bad things to happen to good people!

So, why does God allow bad things to happen to good people?

- First, we live in a *sin-cursed world!* (cf. Gn.3:17-19; and 2Tm.3:10-13)
- Second, suffering allows us to *share in Christ's suffering* (1Pt.4:12-16; Jn.15:18-21)
- He allows suffering to *chasten us, or refine our character* (no pain, no gain; Hb.12:3-13)
- He allows suffering to *bring us to repentance* (Lk.13:1-5 – Is this one "why" of 9/11?)
- He allows suffering to *help us to "learn obedience,"* as our Lord did (cf. Hb.5:8-9)
- He allows suffering to *keep us humble* ("being exalted above measure," 2Cor.12:7-10)
- *He allows suffering of one to accomplish a greater purpose for all* (cf. Gn.50:15-20)
- *Sometimes, suffering is the "due penalty" of our own choices to commit sin!* (Ga.6:7-8)

Ex: AIDS via fornication, homosexuality, drugs (Rm.1:26-27; note some "innocents" get it)

Also: punitive suffering for sin (civil, 1Pt.2:13-14; church, 1Cor.5)-stew in our own juice

But the real question is not "Why?" but "How will I respond?"

- Though he continued to ask, Job was never told "Why?" (It was NOT important!)
- But, he never "gave up," nor "turned his back" on God! (Job.1:20-22; 2:9-10)
- And, in the end, he was *blessed* for his faithfulness through suffering (Job.42:10-13)
- We can't fathom all God's ways or motives, *but we can trust Him!* (cf. Rm.8:28)

Therefore, when trouble comes, we can give in to Satan & give up on God; or we can "count it all joy" (Jm.1:2), & "endure chastening" (Hb.12:7). Let us learn to trust a loving Father, who knows what He's doing, & will see us through the trials and tribulations of life to a home in heaven! If you're not a Christian, you've not even begun to trust Him; thus, His help to you is limited! So why not start right now?



Overcoming Discouragement

One of the most effective tools the Devil has is “discouragement,” and he uses that tool on each one of us: elders, deacons, preachers, class teachers, song leaders, men, women, and children! He uses it to lead us away from God. If he can discourage us, he can control our thoughts, attitudes, and actions. **WE MUST NOT ALLOW THIS TO HAPPEN!** So, let us study this “tactic” of Satan, so that we can learn how to resist it!

Some clarification of discouragement

To become dispirited, or despondent; to lose confidence, courage, hope, or heart Consider some Biblical synonyms for discouragement: “loose heart” (Ga.6:9); “discouraged” (Col.3:21); “fainthearted” (1Th.5:14); “wearry” (2Th.3:13) Hopefully, these terms will help define and clarify what we are discussing here!

Some causes of discouragement

- We may have a spouse who is *sick*, or *difficult* to get along with, or an *unbeliever*
- Perhaps a child who is *sick*, or *rebellious*; or parents who are *harsh* or *abusive*
- Materialism makes us dissatisfied with what we have and wanting more (Hb.13:5)
- Job loss (i.e., economic woes); or even personal sin (sex, drugs, alcohol, apathy)



Some cures of discouragement

- The Scriptures can help (Rm.15:4; Job 3:1-3, 11-12, 16-17, 25-26; 42:12-13; Jm.5:11)
- Here’s a precept [don’t worry], a prescription [pray], and a promise [peace] (Ph.4:6-7)
- Dwell on the positive; & associate with positive people – *it is contagious!* (Ph.4:8, 13)
- Accept your trials as part of life; even rejoice in them! (cf. 2Tm.3:10-12; Jm.1:2-4)
- Trust God! You WILL be rewarded! (2Tm.1:12; 2Cor.4:16-18; and Ga.6:9)
- Get busy in service in order to forget your troubles (Ga.6:9-10; 1Cor.15:58)
- Talk to someone you trust, in order to unburden your mind (Ga.6:2; Jm.5:16)

We must not allow Satan to discourage us in our efforts to serve the Lord! But when he does, remember the words of Paul, who said, “for in due season, we shall reap IF we do not lose heart” (Ga.6:9). Above all, don’t let your sins discourage you! Jesus has the answers we need (Jn.16:33). Let us learn to trust in Him!

-Lanny Smith

Fishers Church of Christ

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