



## Good is a good God & Why do bad things Happen to good People

One of the most significant revelations of God is that He is a good God. Our relationship with God will be strengthened or broken based on our perception of His nature. God is a good God, and the devil is an evil and bad devil.

A revelation of the goodness of God is the foundation for receiving everything you need from God. People, both believers, and unbelievers that are somehow angry at God have a wrong perception of God. They believe God is not good and is responsible for some tragedy, loss, sickness, disease, trauma, pain, and any bad thing that happened to them or their loved ones. It has never crossed their mind to think that at least Satan is responsible for that—not God and if it has crossed their mind, it is easier to blame God because they believe He is Sovereign.

Many people are mad at the wrong person. They are angry at God instead of the devil and this fallen world we live in. This is so simple, yet many wonder through life wondering if God is a good God.

If you do not have a revelation of God's love for you, or if you believe God is mad at you because of your sins, it will also negatively affect your relationship with the Lord. It's impossible for you to love, serve; seek after a God who you do not believe loves you.

Additionally, many people have labeled God with character flaws that are not accurate. The way God has been represented by some people is so bad that if He were a man, every government would arrest and prosecute Him for all the things that have been said about Him.

The truth is that **God is not guilty of** any of the bad things they have said about Him. He is a good God. You can know much about a person based on their revelation of God is a good God. God is either a good God or a bad God but not both. He either-or.

It is well established in the scriptures especially in the life of Jesus who was God in the physical body (1 Timothy 3:16), that God is a good God. Anything to the contrary is nothing else but error.

Matthew 22:29 says, "Jesus answered and said unto them, Ye do err, not knowing the Scriptures, nor the power of God."

In one side of our mouth we say God is good, awesome, and loving while in the other side of our mouth we say God killed my mother, gave me cancer, allowed my business to fail, permitted divorce in my marriage and we cream all that by saying **"because he wants to teach me something."** This is so inconsistent with scriptures. We must choose whether we believe He is good or bad.

If we are going to enjoy our walk with the Lord, we must be fully convinced and persuaded that God is a good God and He does only good in our lives just as we need to be persuaded of His love (Romans 8:37-39). He is a loving God that wants only good for us and has only good plans and thoughts for all of us (Jeremiah 29:11). I have a question—which is which? Is He a good God or a bad God? At least we know He is not both—good and bad. If He is bad and evil, then what is the devil? Good?

## NEW COVENANT VS OLD COVENANT

One of the things we have to learn about God is that He is a God of covenants. He governs and He operates based on covenants. He deals with mankind based on covenants. The Old Covenant was one that God made with the children of Israel. It was a covenant that was based on the works and performance of the people of Israel. If they performed well, they were blessed and if they performed poorly, they were to be punished and cursed.

We see this in Deuteronomy 28 where it lists all the blessings and the curses. When the children of Israel entered into this covenant with God, they agreed to it in that, if they did well, they would be blessed and if they messed up, they would be cursed.

**God works and deals with people based on Covenants**

Another way to understand many of the seemingly difficult verses is by first understanding that God works and deals with people based on the covenant He has with them. Furthermore, to understand these statements (Isaiah 45:7 and Amos 3:6) and other similar statements found in the Old Covenant we must go to these scriptures in Exodus 19:8 and Exodus 24:3, 7.

God did not force people into a covenant with Him. They agreed to it.

- a) "And all the people answered together, and said, All that the LORD hath spoken we will do. And Moses returned the words of the people unto the LORD."—Exodus 19:8
- b) "And Moses came and told the people all the words of the LORD, and all the judgments: and all the people answered with one voice, and said, All the words which the LORD hath said will we do."—Exodus 24:3
- c) "And he took the book of the covenant, and read in the audience of the people: and they said, All that the LORD hath said will we do, and be obedient."—Exodus 24:7
  - i) The children of Israel consented and signed the dotted line yet should have REJECTED this covenant. It was not possible to be kept yet they agreed to it because trusting in themselves. They wanted the benefits it gave but they overlooked the judgment that came with the failure.
  - ii) It takes two for a covenant/contract and agreement to be entered into or else it is not a covenant. When the people heard these words, **they agreed to them. So, God went forward and gave the Law of Moses with both the blessings and the curses** (Judgments). The people did not only agree once but again they agreed to keep **all** that Lord had spoken (Exodus 24:7). A covenant was in effect.
  - iii) This covenant that the children of Israel entered was not one of blessings alone. **It had blessings for obedience and judgments for disobedience.**
    - o God was to bless the children of Israel for their obedience, and they would be peculiar above all people, but judge them if they disobeyed.

- This covenant required both these actions (Blessing for obedience and cursing for disobedience—Deuteronomy 28).
- **God had an obligation to act according to this covenant.** Israel agreeing to this covenant further endorses the fact that God had to fulfill the word of this covenant with the Children of Israel regardless of the cost.
- In other words, you can say, God signed, and the children of Israel signed as well. God gave His Word, and the Children of Israel gave theirs.

Moving forward from this enacting of this covenant (Law of Moses), God blessed Israel for being obedient but also smote them, “created evil (judgments)”, death. According to the verses we have covered above (**Exodus 19:8 and Exodus 24:3, 7**), God acted within the bounds of the covenant He had entered with the Children of Israel.

## NEW COVENANT

Coming to the New Covenant we have to first understand that this covenant is not the same as the Old Covenant. The Old Covenant is completely different from the New Testament.

**The New Covenant is explained in detail in the book of Hebrews**

- a) “But now hath he obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises. For if that first covenant had been faultless, then should no place have been sought for the second. For finding fault with them, he saith, Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah: Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they continued not in my covenant, and I regarded them not, saith the Lord. For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people: And they shall not teach every man his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest. For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more. In that he saith, A new covenant, he hath made the first old. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old is ready to vanish away.”— Hebrews 8:6-13

- i) The New Covenant is one that is established based on grace, not the people's performance. It was based on Jesus' obedience and sacrifice on the cross.
  - ii) Under this covenant, God has placed all judgment (John 12:31- 32) and punishment for all our past, present, and future sins on the Lord Jesus.
  - iii) He doesn't punish us anymore as He would under the Old Covenant. This New Covenant doesn't allow Him to do that. He is bound by this covenant that He made, and He doesn't violate it.
- b) "For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ." —John 1:17
- i) Because of Jesus, who ushered in the New Covenant established on grace and truth, God deals with those under the New Covenant differently.
  - ii) Not because He is indifferent but **because these are two different covenants that require two separate dealings**. This explains why God treated the folks in the Old Testament (OT) differently from the folks in the New Covenant.
  - iii) With a closer look at the scriptures, you will see that God deals with people in three different ways in three different dispensations:
    - o after the fall (before the Law was given)
    - o after the Law was given
    - o after Jesus' death and resurrection
  - iv) God is not the one that changes or changed (Hebrews 13:5 and Malachi 3:6), but the people's behavior changed which was against the covenant they had entered into with God. Also, when the covenant changed, God changed the way He dealt with them, according to the New Covenant.

Let me explain:

## After the fall

(Before the Law was given)

After the fall of man, God dealt with man based on grace. There was no law given, and therefore there was no sin imputed because where there is no law, sin is not imputed (Romans 5:13).

This does not mean that God was okay with the behavior of the people, but it means **He was not imputing their sins unto them.** "Impute" means "to attribute responsibility for." So, because God was not imputing sin unto them, holding them responsible for their sin, the people thought sin was okay. They had no idea what damage sin did to them. But sin was spreading rampantly like an epidemic (Genesis 6:5 "And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually," AND Genesis 19—Sodom and Gomorrah). Yet these people, before the law, thought nothing about it. Matter of fact, they thought they were godly. Because of all this, God had to install a temporary measure to:

- a) Reveal God's standard of righteousness
- b) Keep sin from spreading further and destroying humanity

During this time (dispensation), sin had no cure. Jesus had not come to die for the sins of the whole world yet. People could not be born again; it was impossible for this to happen without Jesus' finished work on the cross and it was premature for Jesus to come at this point.

So, God had to find a way to deal with the rampant spread of sin that was going to corrupt all of mankind and even hamper His big plan of Salvation that would later come through a virgin. **God started to judge people for their sins although the law had not been given yet.** This sounds strange because at this time it was a time of grace and God was not supposed to judge people or impute sins unto them because there was no law and they were not under the law, at least not yet.

In the effort to deal with the ruthless cancer (sin), God sent the flood and later brimstone and fire upon Sodom and Gomorrah. God was not going to sit there and let the cancer of sin abort His entire plan of salvation by corrupting the whole human race.

Reasons God Sent the Flood or Sodom & Gomorrah judgment:

- a) Sin was like a cancer that was out to destroy the entire body. At this point, this cancer was at the leg working its way up to the head. What God did was to cut off or amputate the leg! This could stop the spread of cancer to the rest of the body. This act was quite barbaric and brutal to the leg and the person being amputated. However, by looking at the bigger picture, we can see that this act saved the life of this man. It's better to have no leg but be alive than to have one six feet under.
  
- b) **The acts of judgment under the OT specifically before the law were an act of grace and mercy to mankind as a whole.** It saved the rest of mankind from the destructive cancer of sin that was aggressively reaching to plague and corrupt all. That said, we see the grace of God even in these acts that seemed so brutal. God was looking out for you and me, but it had a cost to some people. It's just like salvation; it cost God His Only Son (Jesus), but the result was that it paid for the sins of us all.
  
- c) During the time before the law, like the time under the law, **God's judgment against evil was mercy to the rest of the people at large.** However, in the New Testament (NT), we can be delivered from the destructive cancer of sin. Because of Jesus and His finished work at the cross, the way God relates to us under the NT has changed.

In the Old Covenant, there was war between God and man, because of type of **covenant** and two, because of **sin**. Not the same case in the New Covenant. This is revealed in Isaiah 59:1-2. However, Jesus has paid for our sins ONCE and for all (Hebrews 10:12, 14) and has given us eternal redemption (Hebrews 9:12, 15).

Under the New Covenant we have peace with God and we have been reconciled back to God. There is no longer any hostility between us and God even when we sin.

John 12:31-33 "Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out. And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me. This he said, signifying what death he should die."

- i) Jesus took all our judgment by paying for our sins. God is not mad at us anymore nor is He in a bad mood.

Romans 4:7-8 Saying, Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered. 8 Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin.

- a) Iniquities forgiven
- b) Will not Impute sin

2 Corinthians 5:17-21 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. 18 And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; 19 To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation. 20 Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God. 21 For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

- a) Reconciled  
Ministry of Reconciliation, Word of Reconciliation
- b) Not imputing their trespasses
- c) Made Him that knew no sin to be sin

Ephesians 2:12-19 That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world: 13 But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. 14 For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us; 15 Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace; 16 And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby: 17 And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh. 18 For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father. 19 Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God;

#### LET'S SEE WHAT THE SCRIPTURES HAVE TO SAY:

First, let us point out the works of Jesus:



- 1) Healing the sick
- 2) Casting out devils
- 3) Cleansing the lepers
- 4) Raising the dead E.g Lazarus, Dorcus
- 5) Turns water into wine.
- 6) Saved people from death
- 7) Forgave people
- 8) Salvation
- 9) Provision – Fishes catch, Feeding thousands (5,000; 4,000), Peter

*Are any of the above bad things or good things?*

A. THOU ART GOOD — Psalm 119:68 “Thou art good, and doest good; teach me thy statutes.”

- a) No one can sincerely study the life of Jesus (Acts 10:38) and conclude that he did bad or evil.
- b) I don't care what your conclusions are if they say otherwise, you are dead wrong. Jesus lived a life of love and destroyed evil that Satan brought upon mankind during His earthly life and eventually dying at the cross and resurrecting from the dead.
- c) If He was the one that allowed all the sickness and the plunder of the enemy, it would have been wrong for Him to heal the sick, cast out devils, cleanse the lepers, and raise the dead. He would have been doing that which is contrary to what He “allowed.”

B. IF YOU HAVE SEEN ME, YOU HAVE SEEN THE FATHER — John 14:9 Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Show us the Father?

- a) If the Father was as bad as some believe, we would have seen that in the life of Jesus, yet we saw someone very different from the Picture the OT paints.

- C. CAN DO NOTHING OF HIMSELF — John 5:19 “Then answered Jesus and said unto them, verily, verily I say unto you, **The son can do nothing of Himself, but what he seeth the father do:** for what things so ever he doeth, these also doeth the son likewise.”
- a) Just as Jesus could do nothing of Himself, we have to be dependent on the Lord the same way.
  - b) Everything Jesus did was the very thing He saw the Father do. **He did not act independently.** Everything Jesus did or conveyed mirrored what God the Father did and said.
    - i) There is no way Jesus could do anything the Father wasn't doing or in agreement with.
    - ii) He did exactly what the Father did.
    - iii) This means the healings and the miracles He did were all that the Father was doing.
    - iv) His works or actions were all in perfect harmony with the Father.
  - c) Since Jesus never made anyone sick, we can conclude that God the father doesn't either. The life and ministry of Jesus is the best acid test for any doctrine.
- D. WILL OF HIM THAT SENT ME — John 4:34 Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work.
- a) Will = Heart, volition, desire,
  - b) Everything Jesus did was the will of the Father.
    - i) This would imply that if it were the Father Himself that was present instead of Jesus, He would have acted exactly the way Jesus did.

- ii) For instance, according to John 8, He would have shown mercy to the woman caught in adultery just as Jesus did
  
- E. I CAN OF MINE OWN SELF DO NOTHING — John 5:30 I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me.
  - a) Jesus made it clear that He could do nothing of His own. He was not seeking His own will.
  
- F. FOR THE SAME WORKS THAT I DO — John 5:36 But I have greater witness than *that* of John: **for the works which the Father hath given me to finish, the same works that I do**, bear witness of me, that the Father hath sent me.
  - a) Jesus reveals that he did the same works that the Father had given Him to finish. This means the works of Jesus which were only good, were the works of the Father.
  
- G. I CAME DOWN NOT TO DO MINE OWN WILL — John 6:38-40 For **I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me.** 39 And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day. 40 And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.
  - a) Jesus revealed another reason is why He came. It was not to do His own thing, His own will but to execute that of the Father. Jesus was the first ambassodar of Heaven. He represented and the Father and His Kingdom and could not wnad would not act independently. The point to this is His good actions exonerate the Father that He was not bad as some have thought, but good all along.
  - b) Jesus was in total oneness with the Father and the Holy Spirit. He was not independent. This is another lesson to all of you wanna be independent people that even God is not independent.
  - c) This further proves that Jesus' actions, works which were only GOOD, were of the Father as well.

- H. I DO ALWAYS THOSE THINGS THAT PLEASE HIM — John 8:29 And he that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone; for I do always those things that please him.
- a) Which things? Healings, Miracles, raising the dead, casting out devils, providing for people's needs (water into wine), cleansing lepers, feeding the hungry, Mercy on the sinners, forgiving people's sins, Teaching and preaching the Word.
  - b) For Jesus' His pleasing the Father was based in His **actions**, but for us pleasing the Lord is first based on **Faith** (Hebrews 11:6).
- I. LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION — Matthew 6:13 "And **lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**"
- a) This appears and sounds as though God leads us into temptation. Not true!
  - b) Note: Jesus was NOT literary saying that we should pray to the Father not to lead us into temptation, because HE does. The Father would no more lead us into temptation than He would lead us to Sin or than He would withhold our daily bread. What this passage is teaching is a **request for guidance to delivered from evil.**
  - c) The word "**lead**" speaks to a seeking of guidance not to fall into temptation or keeping from temptation and/or evil (John 17:15) . This guidance is from temptation which we enter in (Matthew 26:41) and fall (James 1:2) into.
    - John 17:15 I pray not that thou shouldst take them out of the world, **but that thou shouldst keep them from the evil.** (Emphasis mine)
      - Question for you: Who delievers us from evil based on Jesus' prayer in John 17:15? God, God the Father.
    - Matthew 26:41 **Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.**

- James 1:2 My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations;

d) If you believe otherwise would contradict many scriptures like some below:

You will notice if you read these scriptures that contrary to what some believe, many passages prove that it is SATAN that is the TEMPTER, not God.

- i) James 1:13 Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man:
- ii) Matthew 4:3 And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread.
- iii) 1 Thessalonians 3:5 For this cause, when I could no longer forbear, I sent to know your faith, lest by some means the tempter have tempted you, and our labour be in vain.

If someone said to “see to it or guide or lead me so that I do not get hurt.” Does that mean I hurt people? NO! They are simply seeking my help and/or protection so they do not get hurt. Don’t beat me does not mean beat people. It could be an interpretation that I beat people based on your experience.

I think I have done a pretty exhaustive job explaining this.

- J. EVERY GOOD AND PERFECT GIFT — James 1:13-17 Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death. Do not err, my

beloved brethren. Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

- i) These verses start by admonishing us not to say that we are tempted of God.
- ii) God is a good God and tempts no man with evil. This would fly in the face of those who think and teach otherwise.
- iii) These verses reveal that every man is tempted when he is drawn away of his own lust and enticed. It doesn't say that he is tempted by God. Why would these verses tell us not to err? It is because people err all the time saying that they are tempted of God.
- iv) We see from these scriptures what truly comes from God.
- v) Every good and every perfect gift is from God. Not every bad and imperfect gift but every good and perfect gift. This clearly shows the nature and the goodness of God.
- vi) No evil proceeds from God, but only good. Bad things happen and do exist in the world we live in, but it is an error to say that these things come from God.
- vii) These verses continue to say that God doesn't give good, and then another day give bad—no! There is no variableness in Him nor shadow of turning.
- viii) He is a good God all the time. Sickness, poverty, disease, misery, oppression, suffering, hunger, death, loss, are all not good gifts but bad gifts and therefore come not from God but Satan (John 10:10).
  - o Conversely, Health, healing, victory, peace, salvation, life, provision, food, shelter and so many other good things come from God. The simplest way to say it is that, if it's good, it's God and if it's bad, it's the devil. In the word "good" you find the word "God" and in the word "devil," you find the "evil.

- K. GIVE GOOD GIFTS UNTO YOUR CHILDREN. HOW MUCH MORE? — Luke 11:11-13 “If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if he ask a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent? Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?”
- a) These verses show that the Holy Spirit is one of the good gifts God gives.
  - b) If the vilest parent won't deny his or her child, why would we think our perfect heavenly father would give us any less? Why would we expect more kindness from a parent who is a sinner than from God who is perfect, more loving, and kinder?
  - c) God will do much more than what all earthly parents can do combined. He is the perfect loving father. None stands in comparison to Him.
  - d) He is terrific, awesome, gracious, loving, and merciful—more than all mankind put together. If a father will not give a serpent to their child, how much more will our heavenly Father treat as better than any fallen human parent would treat their children.
  - e) If the fallen human parent will and desires to do good only to his children, how much more will our Father in heaven who is a good God (James 1:13-17 and John 10:10)? God's love for us is infinitely greater than any physical relationship we can compare Him to here on earth.
- L. Doing GOOD — Acts 10:38 How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.
- a) What good did Jesus do that this verse is talking about?
    - i) Healed ALL that were sick (oppressed)
      - o Matthew 8:16 “When the even was come, they brought unto him many that were possessed with devils: and he cast out the spirits with his word, and healed all that were sick:” Matthew 12:15; Luke 4:40; 6:17,19;

- You can't find a single person that Jesus made sick or killed. On the contrary, He healed all sending away none unhealed. He demonstrated the heart of God through healing. God is a good God.
- ii) Raised the dead (Luke 9:23-26; John 11).
- iii) Fed the hungry (Matthew 14:13-21)
- iv) Cast our devils (Luke 8:26-39)
- v) Died for our sins (John 3:16).
  - John 15:13 "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."
  - 1 John 3:16

M. NOT TO DESTROY LIVES — Luke 9:51-56 "And it came to pass, when the time was come that he should be received up, he stedfastly set his face to go to Jerusalem, And sent messengers before his face: and they went, and entered into a village of the Samaritans, to make ready for him. And they did not receive him, because his face was as though he would go to Jerusalem. And when his disciples James and John saw this, they said, Lord, wilt thou that we command fire to come down from heaven, and consume them, even as Elias did? But he turned, and rebuked them, and said, Ye, know not what manner of spirit ye are of. For the Son of man is not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them. And they went to another village."

- a) These disciples wanted to do exactly what God allowed through Elijah in the Old Testament, but the response of Jesus was out of this world. It was a shock to the disciples.
- b) He told them that he did not come to destroy lives but to save them.
- c) How can you save those that you came to destroy and kill? Will any be left to die for?

N. NO PLEASURE IN THE DEATH OF HIM THAT DIES — Ezekiel 18:30-32; Ezekiel 33:11 For I have no pleasure in the death of him that dieth, saith the Lord God: wherefore turn yourselves, and live.



- a) The Word of God makes it clear over and over again that God has no pleasure in death and destruction.
- O. DESTROY THE WORKS OF THE DEVIL — 1 John 3:8 “He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose, the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.” (Emphasis mine)
- a) This verse clearly shows you that Jesus is not on the same side as the devil. He came to destroy the evil works of the devil such as sickness, sin, and all the plunder we see today in the world.
  - b) Not every work is a work of God. If that is so, then Jesus came to destroy His own work and the Father’s.
  - c) This verse shows that there is such a thing as the work of God and the work of the devil— not one work, the work of God.
- P. STEAL, KILL, AND DESTROY — John 10:10 The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.
- a) This scripture is very clear. God came to give us life and give it in abundance. He did not come to take life.
  - b) On the other side, Satan came to steal, kill, and destroy—NOT GOD. It’s plain and simple.
  - c) Who is the Thief, Killer, and Destroyer?
- Q. MERCY, NOT CONDEMNATION — John 8:1-11 Jesus went unto the mount of Olives. And early in the morning he came again into the temple, and all the people came unto him; and he sat down, and taught them. And the scribes and Pharisees brought unto him a woman taken in adultery; and when they had set her in the midst, They say unto him, Master, this woman was taken in adultery, in the very act. Now Moses in the law commanded us, that such should be stoned: but what sayest thou? This they said, tempting him, that they might have to accuse him. But Jesus stooped down, and with his finger wrote on the ground, as though he heard them not. So, when they continued asking him, he lifted up himself, and said unto them, He that is without sin among

you, let him first cast a stone at her. And again he stooped down, and wrote on the ground. And they which heard it, being convicted by their own conscience, went out one by one, beginning at the eldest, even unto the last: and Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst. When Jesus had lifted up himself, and saw none but the woman, he said unto her, Woman, where are those thine accusers? hath no man condemned thee? She said, No man, Lord. And Jesus said unto her, Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more.

- a) These verses are one of the embodiments of the goodness of God.
  - b) Jesus extended mercy to this woman contrary to the expectations of the disciples and the Pharisees.
  - c) Furthermore, He did not condemn her. He did not encourage her sin but extended mercy and no condemnation to her.
    - i) No condemnation empowers us to sin no more. He extended no condemnation before He told her to sin no more.
  - d) If God was not a good God, the fate of this woman could have been death by stoning.
    - i) Thank God for Jesus, He made the difference in her life.
    - ii) John 4:34 says that everything Jesus did was the will of the father. This would imply that if it were the Father Himself that was available instead of Jesus, He would have acted exactly the way Jesus did. He would have shown mercy to the woman caught in adultery just as Jesus did.
- R. RESIST THE DEVIL — James 4:7 "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."
- a) When people believe that God is the author of their problems or that they are entirely from Him; such as sickness, failure in business, losing a job, rebellious children, or divorce, it puts them in the position of being **passive**.
  - b) If they believe God is the author of such a situation and is using it to punish them or change them, they would be fighting against God if they were to resist it.

- i) Why do you ask God for help if He is the one allowing your problems? You would be certainly going against His “will,” wouldn’t you?
- o We are not robots that God controls our lives like someone holding a TV remote control. We have a power of choice, unlike robots. Deuteronomy 30:19.
- ii) When people say God controls or allows, it sounds to me that they are saying that God is the cause. What else could they mean? The word “allow” means to permit or control and if you control and permit, then you cause them.
- iii) God is not going to have His way without your cooperation which involves:
- Knowing His word (will)
  - Submitting to Him
  - Resisting the devil (James 4:7)
- iv) We should be so sensitive to God that we resist anything bad and not sit back and say God “**Have your way**” because by you resisting the devil and all his evil, God is having his way through you as you fight to resist the devil. When you resist the devil, what are you resisting? You are resisting anything, not of God such as disease, failure, death, loss, destruction, and divorce, etc. John 10:10 – Satan is the one that steals, kills, and destroys.
- v) God’s will doesn’t automatically come to pass. Most people believe that nothing happens but what God allows. They say that no matter what, God’s will, will come to pass. Not true! People do err not knowing the scripture and the power of God (Matthew 22:29).
- 2 Peter 3:9 – See Jesus’ prophecy Math 7:13
  - 3 John 2
  - Hebrews 3:19
  - Children of Israel in the land of Egypt: Gen 15:13 and Exo 12:40-41. Instead of 400 years that God told Abraham would be the years spent by the children of Israel in the land of bondage, it took them 430 years—30 years extra! God’s will did not come to pass. Moses’ premature (self-willed) deliverance caused him to kill an Egyptian in an attempt to fulfill God’s will. He ended up running for his life before Pharaoh killed him hence

spending 40 years in the bush and costing the children of Israel 40 years extra captivity and bondage. Acts 7:21-30 and Exo 2:11-25.

□ Abraham – Ishmael and Isaac.

viii) God's will doesn't always come to pass. Why? It is dependent on people's cooperation. We have a part to play. God works in our lives proportional to the degree that we let him (Phil 3:20).

S. ALL THINGS WORK TOGETHER FOR GOOD — Romans 8:28 "Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God. And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose."

i) This is the most abused scripture in the bible. God did not allow or cause the situation but **comes in to redeem it for us**. Jesus came to give life not to take life! Anyone preaching that He allows these problems and bad things violates scripture and Jesus' teachings.

ii) This is saying whatever the enemy throws at us, **God can turn it around on our behalf**.

□ It is saying that God can come in and rub the devil's nose on our behalf. God can turn the mess into something good or bring something good out of the mess Satan has caused.

a) Qualifications for Romans 8:28

i) The word "And" is a conjunction. Everything said is dependent on the previous verse about the Holy Spirit making intercession together with us. If we are not letting the Holy Spirit help us with intercession, then all things do not work together for good.

ii) "Love God"—not everyone but only those who love God.

iii) Called according to his purpose which is "to destroy the works of the devil" (1 John 3:8).

- b) This scripture doesn't say that **all things come from God** and work together for good to those who love God and are called according to His purpose. That's how Romans 8:28 reads to some people, but that's not what the scriptures teach nor says.

T. HEALING OF A BEGGAR AND BLIND FROM BIRTH — John 9:1-41

- a) These events took place as Jesus was hiding from the mob and passing out of the temple to avoid being stoned. In the midst of all this, He created time to minister to the beggar.
- b) Why is a child born with birth defects, is a similar question that most people ask today? Is it the judgment of God upon the parents for some sin? Or is it the judgment of God upon the child for sins that God knows he will commit?
- c) Remember Jesus had already told the lame at the pool of Bethesda to "sin no more, lest a worse thing come upon thee." (John 5: 14), hence linking sickness to sin.
- d) **However, in this instance, He said it was neither a result of the sins of the parents nor the child.** This, then, has led many people to believe that or interpret the rest of this verse as saying that **God made this man blind just so that He could heal him and be glorified thereby.**
- e) Now, this scripture doesn't say so anywhere! Why do people make it say so?
- f) This thinking has given birth to many false doctrinal teachings that sickness and problems in our lives are a blessing from God intended to bring Glory to God and correction to us. News flash: this reasoning doesn't line up with other truths of God's word such as Psalms 107:20, John 10:10, 1 John 4:8, 16; 1 Cor 13:4-8, James 1:17, Rom 13:10, Jeremiah 29:10-11, Math 7:11.
  - o Deuteronomy 28, Settles forever that sickness is not a blessing from God but a curse and Galatians 3:13 says Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law.
  - o A house divided against itself cannot stand. Math 12:25-26, Mark 3:23-25, and Luke 11:17-18. If God made the man sick, it would be wrong for Jesus to heal him, because He would be going or acting against God's judgment. If we believe it's God who makes people sick as a blessing, then we certainly shouldn't pray for their healing, send them to a doctor nor give them medicine lest they get well.
- g) **If sickness were a blessing, we should be laying hands on the people and blessing them with sickness, blindness, or cancer not to heal them.** The scriptures don't teach so, neither does the

entire life and ministry of Jesus (Acts 10:38). Some people will say “Yeah, I don’t believe it’s God who allows us to get sick, He is not the one who puts sickness on people, but He allows, permits this and that, failure, destruction, loss, poverty, suffering, problems and so forth. NOT TRUE; if He doesn’t make us sick nor allow sickness, then He doesn’t permit, cause nor allow all these other evils.

U. I AND MY FATHER ARE ONE — John 10:30 “I and my father are one.”

a) They were in Unity to the exclusion of another. They were united and did the something and said they something.

V. BELIEVE THE WORKS — John 10:38 “But if I do, though ye believe not me, believe the works: that ye may know, and believe, that the Father *is* in me, and I in him. (Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father in me: or else believe me for the very works’ sake. John 14:11”

a) There is more than one way a person can come to believe in Him. Some believe just at the word of the Lord while others believe through and by miracles, signs, and wonders. Jesus is saying that this is another way people can come to believe in Him. Look at His miracles, signs, and wonders.

b) Miracles are great witnesses to the power of God, and here, Jesus tells the Jews to at least believe the miracles, signs, and wonders He did. Then they would know that He is God (one with the Father) and that Father is in Him, and He is in the Father. He was saying that believing the signs and wonders would open their hearts to believe in who He had said He was, “I and the Father are one” (John 10:30).

c) The Father is in Jesus, and Jesus is in Him. This is expressing a great degree of unity. I can’t even find the right words to explain it. John 10:30 sums it up.

W. LAZARUS — John 11:4 “When Jesus heard that, he said, This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God might be glorified thereby.”

a) **Jesus was stating that regardless of what caused the infirmity and death, it was the work of God to heal this man.** Jesus was not explaining why Lazarus was sick, but simply stating that

Jesus was taking what Satan meant for destruction and working it out together for good (Rom 8:28).

- b) In John 11:15 Jesus says that He was glad for their sakes that He wasn't with Lazarus when He fell sick so that they also might believe. He meant that if He had been with Lazarus, He would have healed him, and they would not have had the privilege of seeing Lazarus rise from the dead.
- c) Question; Then why would Jesus have healed Lazarus if it was God's will to kill him and why would He raise him from the dead?
  - i) It was not God who killed Lazarus or made the beggar blind.
  - ii) **Jesus was merely redeeming the situation by saying "but that the works of God should be manifest in him."**
- d) God did not allow nor cause the situation but **comes in to redeem it for us.**
  - i) Jesus came to give life not to take life!
  - ii) Anyone preaching that He allows these problems violates scripture and Jesus' teachings.
- e) This is saying whatever the enemy throws at us, God can turn it around on our behalf.
  - i) It is saying that God can come in and rub the devil's nose on our behalf. God can turn the mess into something good or bring something good out of the mess Satan has caused.
- f) For example, when tragedy hits, many people turn to God and are delivered and saved, but God did not cause the tragedy to heal them and save them.
  - i) God turns around the tragedy that Satan has brought about and brings out something good. He turns the lime into lemonade for our enjoyment.
- g) If we love God and are resisting the devil, God will work any situation around and bring out something good for us such as deliverance, divine favor, revelation of God, attention to Him

hence drawing closer to Him, salvation, return to the Love of God (first love) on and on the list goes.

## Why do bad things happen to good people?

Although I believe this is a wrong question to ask, this is a question that everyone on earth has asked or has thought at some point. They think, "I thought so and so was a good person, but why did God allow or do this to them?"

One day, when this question came up, I instead thought, "**Why do good things happen to bad people? If bad things happen to good people, then it is certainly true that good things happen to bad people.**" This is a question that many do not ask.

Not every question that is asked is a correct question. I think the right question should be something like, **why do good things happen to good and bad people** (Matthew 5:45 That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.), or **why does Satan allow, cause, and bring bad things to good people?**

It is quite interesting how most people think. When something good happens, they do not give God the glory or the credit, but if something bad happens, God is to blame. This is so wrong.

- Example: When one plane ever crashes, it's like God why? When hundreds and thousands of planes land safely no one credits God. So, they blame God for the bad and take credit for the good.

To most people, it has never crossed their minds that someone else could be behind all these tragedies and losses except God. The first thing they think is God is responsible.

How about I submit to you a stunning new thought?

- What if Satan is responsible?
- The truth is those who blame God for the bad and evil that happens in the world and their lives, **do not KNOW God**. If they only knew a little bit about God or if they were in a relationship with Him, they would be shocked to realize how wrong they have been all their



lives. God is a good God. He is not what many people out there have presented Him to be.

You may not have all the answers, but you must settle this in your hearts that **God is a good God and Satan is a bad devil.**

- In the word "**good**" you can get the word "**God**" and in the word "**devil**", you can get "**evil**." If it is good and unselfish, it's God and if it's bad it's the devil (Satan).
- We need to credit God for the good and credit Satan for evil.

#### A. SATAN IS TRULY RESPONSIBLE

- a) It's time we started crediting Satan for all the evil he does and crediting God for all the good He does.
- b) God does only good. "**Thou art good, and doest good; teach me thy statutes**" —Psalm 119:68. **That's His nature. He is a good God.**
- c) The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.

—John 10:10

- i) These scriptures are so clear. God came to give us **life and give it to us abundantly.** He did not come to take life.
- ii) On the other side, **Satan came to steal, kill, and destroy.** It's that plain and simple.

#### B. A STUDY OF THE LIFE OF JESUS

- a) No one can sincerely study the life of Jesus (Acts 10:38) and conclude that He did bad or evil. I don't care what your conclusions are, if they say otherwise, you are dead wrong.
- b) According to John 8:29, Jesus did those things that were pleasing to the Father. Those things include healing and all the good things.
- c) Jesus lived a life of love and destroyed the evil that Satan brought upon mankind during His earthly life and eventually dying at the cross and resurrecting from the dead.
- d) 1 John 3:8 tells us, "He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. **For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.** (emphasis mine)

- i) This verse clearly shows you that Jesus is not on the same side as the devil. He came to destroy the evil works of the devil such as sickness, sin, and all the plunder we see.
- e) If He was the one that allowed all the sickness and the plunder of the enemy, **it would have been wrong for Him to heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, and raise the dead. He would have been doing that which is contrary to what He "allowed"**.
- f) The Bible also says that He was God manifest in the flesh (1 Timothy 3:16) which means His heart was to do good alone. The Scriptures also go on to say that He did the will of God.
  - i) (John 4:34 "Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work.") which included healing the sick, cleansing the lepers, raising the dead, and many more good things.

**"For I have no pleasure in the death of him that dieth, saith the Lord God: wherefore turn yourselves, and live ye."—Ezekiel 18:30-32; Ezekiel 33:11.**

### C. IT IS NOT GOD

God is not the one responsible, causing, nor allowing bad things such as sickness, disease, death, storms, birth defects, hunger, war, divorce, misery, you name it.

Some thoughts to remember in relation to why bad things happen.

#### 1. One on one

**God's discipline is for His children is always one on one and always involves His Word, not a sickness, disease, natural disaster or tragedy** (Here are scriptures that show you how God teaches His children and it's all through His Word (2 Timothy 3:16-17; 1 Peter 2:2; 1 Corinthians 10:6-11; John 14:26; John 15:1-3; Joshua 1:8; Ephesians 4:11-13; 6:17; Psalms 34:11; 94:12; 119:9-11,103,105,133; Hebrews 4:2; John 15:1-3; Rev 3:16-17).

- a) The Scriptures also teach clearly that the **Holy Spirit is the teacher—our Teacher**. He would teach us all things.
  - i) The Holy Spirit teaches us, not tragedy or problems.
  - ii) But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I

have said unto you. —John 14:26

- iii) Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will show you things to come.—John 16:13
- iv) But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him. —1 John 2:27

## 2. TO SAVE LIVES, NOT DESTROY THEM

For the Son of man is not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them. And they went to another village. —Luke 9:56

- a) Jesus did not come to destroy lives but to save them. How would He die for the lives He destroyed? Satan is the true killer, stealer, and destroyer (John 10:10).

## 3. BOOK OF REVELATION

- a) The book of Revelation describes a time in the future when God's judgment will rain upon unbelievers. However, today we are living in the age of grace where God is not imputing man's sins unto people (2 Corinthians 5:19, 21).
  - i) Revelation 6:12-17 "And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood; And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind. And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places. And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?"
- b) If that was the judgment of God, it would be **more severe**, and it won't be only in **selective places** or countries, but the entire world.
- c) If it was God's judgment, it will be **very evident to all people** that it is God's judgment and

people will not have to be told. They would just know it without explanation (Revelations 6:16). The fact that this has to be explained out to people further proves that this is not the judgment of God.

- i) The judgment of God does not or will not have to be explained to people. It will be known by all intuitively.

#### 4. TRAGEDIES HAPPEN TO GODLY MEN AND WOMEN, TOO.

- a) There is no doubt that when tragedies and bad things happen, godly men and women also lose their lives or suffer in such, but it is not God that killed them, allowed it to happen, nor is He judging them.
- b) **God does not kill His own** (Sodom and Gomorrah God spared Lot and his family—Genesis 18:26, 28-32). It is Satan that kills his own.

#### 5. GOD CREATED LAWS (SPIRITUAL AND NATURAL).

- a) When God created everything, He created laws of how things ought to operate. These laws would reward man if he followed them, but they would also destroy or punish man should he go against them.
- b) We experience victory to the degree we cooperate with those laws.
  - Example: if a farmer does not plant a crop, he can't blame God for not receiving a harvest. It is the natural laws that punished him, not God.
- c) God created laws but established punishments in these laws. **God is not the one that judges us, it is the laws that does that.**
  - i) When we violate gravity, it punishes us. When we violate fire, we get burnt, etc. Going against these laws releases punishment to us.
- d) These laws are not partial. They do not work for only one sect of race, sex, or people.
  - o Success is governed by laws and principles that are universal. Financial prosperity of a successful life is not determined by the place you live, but by your relationship with the Lord and knowing the laws that govern success.

**Below, I list some of the reasons why bad things happen:**

a) SIN IN GENERAL

- i) When God created all things, He did not create anything bad or evil. Everything was beautiful and good. After every day of creation, the Bible says, "God saw that it was good" (Genesis 1:25).
- ii) Later on, God created man (Genesis 3) and gave him the commandment not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, but when he did, his sin plunged the whole creation and human race into the problems we have today.
  - o Praise God for Jesus that He came and died for all our sins and restored us to the status God created us for, but sin in general corrupted the world and life.
  - o In general, it is the main reason why we see bad things happen or we see all the death, plunder, misery, sin, sickness, and destruction.
- iii) The original sin in the garden committed by **Adam and Eve ushered in all these bad things.**
  - o None of all this mess existed until after the fall of man.
  - o Many times, we have done nothing so to speak, but because of this corruption that entered the world through sin, we tend to become unwilling partakers of the mess in the world.
- iv) And as Jesus passed by, he saw a man which was blind from his birth. And his disciples asked him, saying, Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind Jesus answered, Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him. —John 9:1-3
  - o In this verse, Jesus said neither the man nor the parents sinned for this man to be blind. It was sin in general that has caused this imperfection in this man from birth.
  - o Nonetheless, since He (Jesus) was now present, He was going to turn things around by destroying this blindness on this man's behalf thereby giving glory to God.
  - o He did not put the blindness on this man, but because of His loving-kindness, he healed the man. Hallelujah!

## b) MAN'S FREE WILL

This is a major factor in why bad things happen. Man has been given freewill to choose their destiny. God has offered help in many ways, but He does not force us to make a choice nor does He make it for us.

- i) Deuteronomy 30:19 I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live:
  - o Those who do not believe that they have freewill will blame everyone else and will never take responsibility for anything.

## c) FALLEN WORLD

This may come as a shocker to some people, but this world is not heaven. It's the fallen world and things aren't going to be perfect like they are in heaven.

- i) These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world. —John 16:33
- ii) Everything is not going to be smooth in this world like it would be in heaven. You will have tribulation.
- iii) The world is the only hell a believer would ever experience, while it is the only heaven the unbelievers will ever experience.
- iv) Storms come to also those who are in God's will. It is a deception to think that if you are in God's will, no storms will come.

## d) SATAN

As we previously studied in Chapter Four, Satan is often the one responsible for the evil we see in the world today.

"The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly." (John 10:10). Satan is one of the main reasons we experience stealing, killing, and destroying.

- a) Look no further, this verse among many others **clearly reveals out who kills, steals, and destroys.**

- i) Satan is the thief, killer, and destroyer NOT God. The devil is another reason that bad things happen.
- b) Every tragedy, sickness, disease, death, and so forth can be categorized into these three things—**stealing, killing, and destruction**.
  - i) If there is any stealing, killing, and destruction it is Satan (Devil) who is behind it NOT God.

"How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit. They that see thee shall narrowly look upon thee, and consider thee, saying, Is this the man that made the earth to tremble, that did shake kingdoms; That made the world as a wilderness, and destroyed the cities thereof; that opened not the house of his prisoners?" —Isaiah 14:12-17

These verses talk about Lucifer who is well known today as Satan. These verses clearly show that Satan or Lucifer is the one responsible for the evil and tragedy happening in the world.

It says he:

- i) Made the world a wilderness
- ii) Destroyed cities
- iii) Imprisoned people (Spiritually and physically).

This flies in the face of those who say God is the one who causes evil and tragedy. These verses clearly say that it is Lucifer (Satan) NOT God.

#### e) INDIVIDUAL SINS

Afterward Jesus findeth him in the temple, and said unto him, Behold, thou art made whole: sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee. —John 5:14

- i) This response from Jesus indicates that living in sin or sinful lifestyle could cause bad things to come upon us.
  - o If we change the way we are living, we stop certain things from happening.
  - o If we continue to live in sin anyhow, we open a door (Romans 6:16 and James 4:7) to the devil who comes in to steal, kill, and destroy (John 10:10).

- ii) Also, it shows that what this man was going through was **self-inflicted**.
  - o Living in sin opened a door to this man's life and as a result, he was diseased for 38 years.
  - o It is clear enough that God had nothing to do with this man's disease, nonetheless He came to his rescue and made him whole.

f) NATURE (CREATION) GROANING

Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body. —Romans 8:21-22

- i) One of the main reasons we see the mess of storms, earthquakes, and hurricanes, is **because the earth is groaning in birth pains**.
  - o The corruption of sin that happened in the garden affected every bit of creation including the earth.
- ii) The word "GROANETH" used in this verse is translated from a Greek word that means "to moan jointly, that is, (figuratively) experience a common calamity." (Strong's Concordance).
  - o So, this is saying that the earth experienced a common calamity, and therefore, is moaning.
  - o This moaning (groaning) has caused lots of tragedies that people blame on God. This will continue until the full redemption of the Children of God.

g) EVIL PEOPLE

Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness? —Romans 6:16

- i) Satan works through people. There are some evil people out there. They are out to hurt other people at all cost.
  - o When someone does evil to you, do not blame God. It's the person that has done



it—not God.

- Don't get mad at God. We live in a world where people yield themselves to be vessels and instruments of Satan.
  - This is another channel through which bad things happen to us. If people make themselves instruments for Satan, they will cause bad things to happen. Death, disease, sickness, suffering, and many things happen because of people who are in unity with the devil.
- ii) From whence come wars and fightings among you? Come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members? —James 4:1.

□ People's lusts are one of the causes of bad things and evils we encounter.

#### h) IGNORANCE OF THE WORD

My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children. —Hosea 4:6

- i) There is a degree of responsibility that believers or the church have to take for their passiveness.
- ii) Ignorance of the Word of God only allows the works of the Enemy to prevail unchecked and unchallenged. Ignorance of the Word has led to wrong believing, therefore no results.
- iii) Jesus answered and said unto them, Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God." —Matthew 22:29

#### i) NOT USING OUR GOD-GIVEN AUTHORITY

Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you. —Luke 10:19

- i) God has given the believers and the body of Christ **power and authority** over the works of the devil such as sickness, poverty, death, and destruction, but many do not know they have it nor do they use it.
- ii) He has also given us the name of Jesus which is the name above all names (John 14:13; Philippians 2:9-11). He has given us the faith of Jesus and the commission to do "greater works" (John 14:12)

iii) Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. —James 4:7

j) CONSEQUENCES FOR OUR ACTIONS

For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting. —Galatians 6:8

i) This verse makes it clear that of the flesh we reap corruption—not of God.

ii) Those who blame God have missed what this verse teaches.

k) DEATH COMES BY SIN

For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. —Romans 6:23

Wherefore, as by one-man sin entered into the world, and **death by sin**; and so, death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned. —Romans 5:12

i) This verse says that death comes by sin, not by God. Another way to say this is that the wages which sin pays is death. This does not say that God pays wages of death—no, it is sin.

Notice: GOD is not on that list above as a reason to why bad things happen and He should NOT be. He is not the One behind all the misery, sickness, plunder, sin, killing, destroying, and stealing.

Let me end with these lyrics by Annie J. Flint:

He giveth more grace when the burdens grow greater,  
He sendeth more strength when the labors increase;  
To added afflictions He addeth His mercy,  
To multiplied trials, His multiplied peace.

When we have exhausted our store of endurance,  
When our strength has failed ere the day is half done,  
When we reach the end of our hoarded resources  
Our Father's full giving is only begun.

Fear not that thy need shall exceed His provision,  
Our God ever yearns His resources to share;  
Lean hard on the arm everlasting, availing;  
The Father both thee and thy load will upbear.

His love has no limits, His grace has no measure,  
His power no boundary known unto men;  
For out of His infinite riches in Jesus  
He giveth, and giveth, and giveth again

Rich Kanyali