

Why do bad things happen to good people? Does God allow, ordain or cause natural disasters such as the Tsunamis, earthquakes and birth defects?

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 yet not new all?

- What if Satan is responsible?
- The truth is those who blame God for the bad and evil that happens in the world and in their lives, **do not KNOW God**. If they only knew a little bit about God or if they were in 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 the 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. Psalm 119:68 says, *“Thou art good, and doest good; teach me thy statutes.”* 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, died at the cross and was resurrected 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 with 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 who 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. 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 of 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; Psalms 34:11; 94:12; 119:9-11,103,105,133).

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).

b) Those who think or even teach otherwise have missed the heart of God.

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 wouldn't be only in **selective places** or countries, but the entire world.

c) If it was God's judgment, it would be **very evident to all people** that it is God's judgment and people would not have to be told. They would just know it without explanation (Revelations 6:16). The fact that this has to be explained to people further proves that this is not the judgment of God.

i) The judgement 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** (During Sodom and Gomorrah, God spared Lot and his family—Genesis 18:26, 28-32). God is a good God, and He will not destroy the righteous with the wicked. It is Satan that kills his own.
 - i) One of the things holding back the wrath of God is the fact that the righteous are still present. The Lord will spare the entire city because of and for the sake of the righteous (Genesis 18:26, 28-32).
 - ii) Abraham negotiated all the way starting from 50 to 45 to 40 to 30 to 20, and 10 people asking God if He would destroy a city that had the above number of righteous. God made it clear that he would not. God will not judge a city or country if His people are present.

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.
 - i) 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 do 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.
- i) Success is governed by laws and principles that are universal. Financial prosperity or 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.
- 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.
 - 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**. None of all this mess existed until after the fall of man.
- 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

- 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.
- 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.
- He did not put blindness on this man, but because of His loving-kindness, he healed the man. Hallelujah!

b) Man's freewill

This is a major factor in why bad things happen. Man has been given freewill to choose his 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:”*
 - 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 shock 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 will 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 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 spells 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:

- Made the world a wilderness
- Destroyed cities
- 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 clearly indicates that living in sin or sinful lifestyle could cause bad things to come upon us.
 - If we change the way we are living, we stop certain things from happening.
 - 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**.

- Living in sin opened a door to this man's life and as a result, he was diseased for 38 years.
- 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**.
 - 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).
 - So, this is saying that the earth experienced a common calamity, and therefore, is moaning.
 - 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.
 - 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 lust is 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 that God is not on that list above as to why bad things happen. 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.”

RichKaiti

Rich Kanyal