

## What In the World is Going On?

Glen - April 19

### Message Big Idea:

What in the world is going on? What's happening? Is it the end of the world or a sign that the end is near? Is this punishment from God? Is this the work of the devil? Or is it just bad luck? We want to know the cause of the bad things to happen to us. But God is far more interested in how we respond to the difficulties and disruptions. We can respond in fear, worry, anger or anxiety. Or we can look to God for the response that is best for us, others and that honors him. God doesn't stop all the bad in the world, but he shows up powerfully in the midst of chaos and change. The Bible speaks clearly to how we are to respond to the world we find ourselves in today.

**Main Idea:** To thrive in a crisis, move from "Why?" to what.

**Main Text:** James 1:2-5

**Supporting texts:** Matthew 24:6-7, 14; John 9:3;

**Referenced in Message:** To watch the Easter service - [Easteratpantano.com](http://Easteratpantano.com)

### Reflection/Discussion Questions:

1. Why does God allow difficulties, pain, suffering, trials, and challenges? What is the purpose God has for us through our trials and tests?
2. Share a time when you faced a challenge or trial and through the difficulty your faith grew, you dealt with any spiritual impurities and you were able to follow Jesus better.
3. Respond to the idea: God doesn't want to make you happy, but holy. Share your thoughts and reactions. Do you agree or not? Why? What does holiness mean? Why is God interested in you experiencing more than happiness?
4. James 1:3 uses the word "persevere" (patient endurance). Explain what you think James means to persevere through a trial. Does it just mean to not give in or give up? Or does it go further than that? Why must we persevere?
5. James says the purpose of persevering through tests and trials is to become *mature and complete, not lacking anything*. In what ways do you want to become mature or complete? In what ways do you find yourself "lacking" and what do you think God wants to do to grow you? How can your character mature because of this? How does God want you to use this trial to become more like Jesus? What is this difficulty revealing about you that needs to change? What idols, bad habits, addictions, or sin is being revealed through the challenge?