

God Didn't Say That:

Jun 14, 2026

"Everything Happens For A Reason"

In this powerful exploration of truth versus popular belief, we're challenged to examine one of the most commonly repeated phrases in times of crisis: 'Everything happens for a reason.' While this statement might seem comforting on the surface, it raises profound theological questions about God's character and the nature of suffering. The message walks us through a careful biblical examination that reveals a crucial distinction: God is not the source of evil, but He is the redeemer of it. Drawing from 1 John's declaration that 'God is light and there is no darkness in Him at all,' we're reminded that attributing evil to God fundamentally misunderstands His nature. The story of Joseph becomes our anchor point, showing us how human-inspired evil—the betrayal by his brothers—was not orchestrated by God, yet God worked powerfully through it to bring about salvation for many. This isn't about God causing our pain for some hidden lesson; it's about God meeting us in our darkest moments and transforming what was meant to destroy us into something redemptive. We live in a broken world with real spiritual opposition, and not everything that happens aligns with God's perfect will. Yet even in this reality, we find hope: no situation is beyond God's redemptive power, and He promises to walk with us through every trial, not as the author of our suffering, but as our deliverer within it.

1. How does understanding that God is not the source of evil change the way you view difficult circumstances in your own life?

2. Joseph told his brothers that they planned evil against him but God used it for good. Can you identify a painful experience in your life that God has redeemed or is in the process of redeeming?

3. What is the difference between saying everything happens for a reason and believing that God can bring good out of any situation?

4. When Jesus said in John 16:33 that we will have trials but to take heart because He has overcome the world, how does this shape your perspective on current struggles?

5. The sermon mentions that sometimes people need compassion and care more than explanations. How can we better support others in suffering without offering empty platitudes?

6. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego said they would worship God even if He did not save them from the furnace. What would it look like for you to have that kind of faith in your current circumstances?

7. How does viewing trials as opportunities for growth rather than punishments from God transform your spiritual perspective?

8. In what ways have you mistakenly attributed temptation or evil to God rather than recognizing the spiritual battle described in James 1:13?

9. The sermon states that God does not send every storm away but walks with us through them. How have you experienced God's presence in the midst of a storm rather than in its removal?

10. When facing difficulty, how can we shift from asking why did God do this to me to asking where is God working in this?

Remember...

“Our hope is not that everything happens for a reason, but that despite the things that happen in the world, God is working. He is here with us. And he can bring good out of the most difficult situations.”