

Pt. 1: Why Do Bad Things Happen?

Questions for further study and application:

- Day 1** Read Isaiah 55:8-9. God's thoughts are not your thoughts, and one truth you need to accept is that you may never completely understand why bad things happen in certain situations. Control is defined as the power to influence or direct people's behavior or the course of events. It's hard to accept that we have very little control over what happens, however, you can take comfort in knowing that God does. He controls it all, and His ways are best. Romans 8:28 tells us that God uses all things for the good for those who believe and love Him. Trust God today that no matter what situation you're facing that He will use it for good things.
- Day 2** The most basic answer to why bad things happen is because we live in a broken world. Read John 16:33. Sin was introduced into the world when Eve bit into the forbidden fruit and at that point the world became broken. In the world's broken state, other people's sin can cause bad things to happen to us, or your sin can cause bad things to happen to someone else. Be assured that no matter what challenges you face, Jesus has overcome them, and you can have peace no matter what storm you may encounter.
- Day 3** Read Galatians 6:7. The second honest answer to why bad things happen is because you brought it on yourself. The fact that your actions can result in bad things happening to you can be a difficult truth to accept. When you make bad choices, bad things happen. If you spend more money than you make, you end up in debt. If you eat more than you exercise, you become overweight. There are consequences to the choices you make. In today's verse, the Bible says you reap what you sow. Jesus has overcome the world, but He has also given you free will to live how you want to live. When you don't follow Jesus and make choices against what He tells you to do in the Bible, bad things can happen. Choose today to sow good seeds, and you will reap good fruit.
- Day 4** Read John 9:1-3. The third honest answer to why bad things happen is because God wants to do something big in your life. In these verses, the blind man had done nothing wrong; it wasn't because of something someone else had done; it was simply so that God could be glorified at the appointed time. You may have never thought about this, but God has allowed certain struggles in your life so you can sympathize with and serve the people around you. Read 2 Corinthians 1:3-4. When you give the bad things that happen over to God, He is glorified and He uses them to help others know Him. It draws you closer to God and to others when we give it all to Him.
- Day 5** Read James 1:2-4. The fourth honest answer about why bad things happen is because God is doing a work in you. You may be going through things right now that you didn't ask for, that you didn't want, and probably wish weren't happening. When you let God use the trial you are going through, He pulls you in close. If you let Him use the wind and the rain, He'll provide the shelter. Let Him use your struggle to make you stronger. Even when bad things happen, no matter what the reason, you still have God. Jeremiah 29:11 tells you that God has a plan for you, a plan to prosper you, and bring you peace and hope for the future. Trust that no matter what you're going through, God is with you, and He has great plans for you.

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