

Bad Things & Good People

Pastor Bryan Keith Dugger - 05/12/2019



Personal Reflection

Take time this week to pray & respond to the following:

Everyone wonders at one time or another why bad things happen to good people. This question is often asked in light of personal hardship and in times when those around us seem to be unjustly enduring undeserved struggles. Often, the question is directed at God because He has the power to intervene and is expected, by virtue of His goodness, to be eager to get involved.

Hardship is universal. Everyone who has ever lived, “good” and “bad” people, has known times of difficulty and suffering. There are essentially three causes for these times—that which results from one’s own actions, that which results from the actions of others, and that which occurs as a result of factors associated with one’s environment. It is not always possible to discern why God allows hardship and suffering to come into our lives or the lives of those we love. Regardless of our understanding, God has a reason for causing or allowing all things to happen. He also has first-hand knowledge of what it means to suffer. The suffering and death of the Savior is the price that had to be paid so that mankind could be offered the free gift of salvation.

What is your response to hardship and difficulty? Do you turn toward or away from the One who has the strength to carry you through? Do you know God well enough to remember His love and trust His goodness in times of suffering? Does spiritual immaturity manifest in a diminished desire for God when times get hard?

Prayerfully share with God your need for strength when it comes to navigating times of hardship. Confess any frustration, fear or anger that you are harboring as a result of suffering. Be courageous in your commitment to trust Him and love Him even when you don’t understand why it has to be this way.

I. Unfair & Unjust

II. Nature & Conduct

...of God

Psalm 107:1; 119:68

...of Man

Romans 3:10-12; 7:18-19

III. Context & Objective

Romans 8:18-23

IV. Understanding & Enduring
