

LIFE HACKS

“Faithful”

FAITHFUL: - True to one's word, promises, vows, etc.

- Steady in allegiance or affection

GOD IS GOOD...ALL THE TIME!

TRUTH: Not everything that happens in the world is good all the time!

QUESTION: If God is so good....why do so many terrible things happen?

Have you ever asked why, if God knew something was gonna happen....why He allowed you to go there?

LIST OF WHYS: Why war, famine, disaster, murder, death, cancer.....

BROAD: If God Is So Good, How Come There Is So Much Bad in the World?

PERSONAL: If God is so good and is in control of everything.....why do I have so much pain in my life?

I know that every one of us has asked that question at some time!

YOU ARE NOT THE FIRST ONE TO FEEL THAT WAY!

David said:

Psalm 22:1-2 My God, My God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, so far from the cries of my anguish? My God, I cry out by day, but you do not answer, by night, but I find no rest.

Psalm 22:11 Do not be far from me, for trouble is near and there is no one to help.

EVEN JESUS SAID:

Matthew 27:46 And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice saying, "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? That is , "My God, My God, Why have you forsaken me?"

LIFE LEAVES US WITH WOUNDS AND BATTLE SCARS!

SOME FOUNDATIONS:

1. God is not the creator of evil and suffering.

Lots and lots of people ask,

"Why didn't God create a world where there was no suffering? Where there was no evil?"

The answer to that question is, "He did."

-Genesis says that when God created the world, it was good.

So, where did evil come from?

-God created us with a free will so that we could express love to Him and to each other.

-It's impossible to truly love unless you have a choice.

Love is a real value to God, and you can't have real love without the freedom to choose to really love or not to love.

God gave us the ability to choose. And unfortunately, we used our ability to choose to bring about evil.

Hold your hands up and look at them for a minute.

Have you ever used those hands to caress a small child, or to deliver food to a hungry person or to build something that was useful to some people you love?

Have you ever used those hands to take something that didn't belong to you, or hit someone who made you mad, or to give the **universal sign of disapproval when someone made you mad?**

Our hands are capable of both good and evil.

Two kinds of evil in this world.

A. Man-made evil, where we do things that hurt others.

Some estimate that 95% of all the pain and suffering in this world is the result of things we do to each other.

B. Natural evil. Things like earthquakes and tornadoes and outbreaks of disease.

Natural evil is also a result of sin having been allowed in the world through free choice.

-If you read the account of Genesis 1 in the O.T., all throughout the chapter, as God is creating this world it says, "**And it was good!**" [Genesis 1 - "It is good."]

-And then you come to Gen. 3, where man and woman chose to do the one thing God asked them not to, and it says that as a result, all of nature was affected.

Gen. 3:16-19

16 To the woman he said, "I will greatly increase your pains in childbearing; with pain you will give birth to children.

Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you."

17 To Adam he said, "Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree about which I commanded you, 'You must not eat of it,' "Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat of it all the days of your life.

18 It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field.

19 By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return."

Romans 8:22 - We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time.

So let's make this crystal clear:

***God did not create evil. *God did not create suffering. *God did not create death.**

He did create the potential for evil to enter the world, because it was the only way He could create the potential for genuine goodness and genuine love.

It was human beings, in our free will, who brought that potential evil into reality.

God's will is not always done!!

"In this world you WILL have trouble, but take heart, I have overcome the world!"

OVERCOME THE WORLD?

THIS WORLD IS NOT OUR HOME....WE ARE JUST PASSING THROUGH!!

1. God is not the creator of evil and suffering

2. The day is coming when suffering will cease and evil will be judged.

Sometimes people ask, "If God has the power to end all suffering and eradicate evil, why doesn't he just do it?"

"Here's what the Bible says. It says that just because God hasn't wiped out evil doesn't mean he won't wipe it out someday."

2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

HE WANTS EVERYONE TO GO TO HEAVEN....His will that NONE should perish!!

John 14:1-6 “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. 2In my Father’s house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. 3And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. 4You know the way to the place where I am going.”5Thomas said to him, “Lord, we don’t know where you are going, so how can we know the way?”6Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

John 3:16 “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 Brothers, we do not want you to be ignorant about those who fall asleep, or to grieve like the rest of men, who have no hope. 14We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. 15According to the Lord's own word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left till the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. 16For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. 17After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. 18Therefore encourage each other with these words. The only reason these words can me of any comfort and encouragement is because God provided a way through the death and resurrection of his own Son...Jesus Christ....that we could have eternal life!

John 11:25-26 Jesus said...., “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; 26and whoever lives and believes in me will never die.”

Revelation 21:4 4He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."

I WANT TO WRAP THIS ALL UP:

- 1. God is not the creator of evil and suffering**
- 2. The day is coming when suffering will cease and evil will be judged**
- 3. Any suffering we experience in this life pales in comparison to the good God has in store for His followers.**

Take a look at this verse, which was written by the Apostle Paul. He says:

2 Corinthians 11:23-27 Are they servants of Christ? (I am out of my mind to talk like this.) I am more. I have worked much harder, been in prison more frequently, been flogged more severely, and been exposed to death again and again. **24** Five times I received from the Jews the forty lashes minus one. **25** Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned, three times I was shipwrecked, I spent a night and a day in the open sea, **26** I have been constantly on the move. I have been in danger from rivers, in danger from bandits, in danger from my own countrymen, in danger from Gentiles; in danger in the city, in danger in the country, in danger at sea; and in danger from false brothers. **27** I have labored and toiled and have often gone without sleep; I have known hunger and thirst and have often gone without food; I have been cold and naked.

-And yet, in the same letter in which he writes this, he says,

2 Corinthians 4:17 For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.

He also writes,

Romans 8:18 I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.

Think about it this way. Let's say that on the first day of the year 2022, you had an absolutely terrible, horrible, no good, very bad day.

But then, for the rest of 2022, all the rest of the days of the year, are just plain terrific.

And now, on New Year's Eve 2013, somebody asks you, "So, how was your year?"

What's your response going to be? - "It was great!"

Well, what about that first day?

Oh yeah, I guess that was a bit rough. But the rest of the year was so wonderful, I had forgotten about it.

That's what heaven will be like.

That's not to deny the reality of pain and suffering in this world.

But, after 15 million years in the absolute bliss of heaven, all the troubles of this life are going to seem insignificant. God will have wiped all the tears from your eyes and they'll all seem like a wisp.

So that if someone asks you then, "**How's your existence been?**" You're going to say, "Wonderful." But didn't you have a painful life? "That's true. But it pales in comparison to the wonders God has given me since.

I Corinthians 2:9 says, However, as it is written:

"No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him"

And if you love him and you follow him he will bring you to a place where, in light of eternity with him, the present sufferings of this world will not even compare to the experience.

God promises to walk with us in our pain and suffering, if we will let Him.

Isaiah 42:5-6 This is what God the LORD says, he who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and all that comes out of it, who gives breath to its

people, and life to those who walk on it: 6 "I, the LORD, have called you in righteousness; I will take hold of your hand.

Isaiah 43:1-3 But now, this is what the LORD says— he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel; "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine. 2 When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze. 3 For I am the LORD, your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior;

This is God's promise.

This is His answer.

He says, "I didn't create evil, but I allowed for it so that you could have the freedom to choose to love me. And even though I don't like suffering, I can make good come from it. And that's not my final answer. Suffering won't always be part of the world, some day I'll wipe it away once and for all. Someday your bliss will be so strong that your present suffering won't be worth comparing to it. In the meantime, you can decide whether your pain will make you bitter or your pain will make you better. And when you are in pain, I will be with you. I will hold your hand. I will walk with you in sorrow, if you will let me." says God."

Or, in the words of Jesus, "In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." – John 16:33

Hebrews 13:5 "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you

1) You need an eternal perspective to get you through some rough times!

2) You need to know HE is near!

3) You need to take care of your eternity!