

May 5, 2019
GOD NEVER SAID THAT - Part 2

“Bad Things Shouldn’t Happen to Christians”

Genesis 1:31 (ESV): “And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good....”

1 John 4:8 (ESV): “...God is love.”

Jesus: ““For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.”” (**John 3:16** ESV)

John 9:1-2 (ESV): “¹As [Jesus] passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. ²And his disciples asked him, ‘Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?’”

The disciples held the common belief that affliction was punishment for sin, and this man’s blindness was the result of sin, and the only question was whose sin?

There’s this underlying assumption that bad things only happen to bad people, that bad things shouldn’t happen to Christians, but *God never said that!*

John 9:3 (ESV): “Jesus answered, ‘It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him.’”

Two Things To Notice:

- Jesus says it wasn’t some act of sin that caused this man to be born blind.
- Regardless of the cause, God can use sad and tragic circumstances like this to reveal Himself and His glory.

John 9:6-7 (ESV): “⁶...[Jesus] spit on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man’s eyes with the mud ⁷and said to him, ‘Go, wash in the pool of Siloam’ (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing.”

SOME OBSERVATIONS

1. The Bible indicates all of creation has fallen and is affected by sin.
2. God created human with free will, so each person makes their own decisions, and sometimes they’re hurtful or even destructive to others and themselves.
3. God could have created us without free will, but then that means we’re just robots.

4. The Bible affirms we can be honest with God about our struggles.

Psalms 62:8 (NLT): “O my people, trust in him at all times. Pour out your heart to him, for God is our refuge.”

5. Pain and suffering can actually protect us.

6. Pain and suffering can grow us in ways nothing else can.

James 1:2-4 (NIV): “²Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, ³because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. ⁴Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.”

God’s purpose isn’t our happiness but our holiness – He’s seeking to grow us increasingly into the image and likeness of His Son Jesus Christ.

7. Suffering helps us become sensitive to the struggles of others, and God uses that to enable us to help others.

2 Corinthians 1:3-4 (NLT): “³All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is our merciful Father and the source of all comfort. ⁴He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others. When they are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us.”

8. Our suffering, especially for Christ, can be a witness to others.

Philippians 1:12-14 (NLT): “¹²And I want you to know, my dear brothers and sisters, that everything that has happened to me here has helped to spread the Good News. ¹³For everyone here, including the whole palace guard, knows that I am in chains because of Christ. ¹⁴And because of my imprisonment, most of the believers here have gained confidence and boldly speak God’s message without fear.”

9. Suffering in this life doesn’t have the last word for Christians!

Isaiah 41:10 (NLT): “Don’t be afraid, for I am with you. Don’t be discouraged, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you. I will uphold you with my victorious right hand.”

Romans 8:18-19, 28 (NLT): “¹⁸Yet what we suffer now is nothing compared to the glory he will reveal to us later. ¹⁹For all creation is waiting eagerly for that future day when God will reveal who his children really are.... ²⁸And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.”

2 Corinthians 4:17-18 (NLT): “¹⁷For our present troubles are small and won’t last very long. Yet they produce for us a glory that vastly outweighs them and will last forever! ¹⁸So we don’t look at the troubles we can see now; rather, we fix our gaze on things that cannot be seen. For the things we see now will soon be gone, but the things we cannot see will last forever.”

Philippians 3:20 (NCV): “But our homeland is in heaven...”

Next Week: Mother’s Day

Get the *Life Journal* Bible Reading Plan at gateway-community.org/Find-it

Follow Randy on Twitter @HagemanRandy