

Good God

Part 2: Everything Happens for a Reason but the Reason Ain't Always God

Psalms 103:1-2 \ "Bless the Lord, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits

These two verses encourage us to:

1. Bless the Lord
2. Forget not his benefits

It doesn't just tell us to bless God but it tells us to bless God while we remind ourselves that he's good!

This primary truth of the goodness of God is critical.

John 10:10 \ "The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly, to the full, till it overflows, more and better life than we ever dreamed of."

God desires to increase our life and make it everything we hope for and dream of come to pass.

Good God, Bad Devil!

If it's good, it's God!

If it's bad, it ain't

For God is a good God!

Psalms 145:8-9 \ "The Lord is gracious, and full of compassion; slow to anger, and of great mercy. The Lord is good to all: and his tender mercies are over all his works."

Today we are going to focus on killing the misnomer that lies behind the phrase, "**Everything happens for a reason**"

The premise of "all things are a part of God's plan for our lives" is based upon the misconception that God is in control of everything.

But the reality is that God is not in control of everything that happens on this planet.

1 Tim 2:4 \ God desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

God desires all men to be saved!

2 Peter 3:9 \ The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

Why do Bad Things Happen?

1. People make choices that are against God's Will.

Duet 30:19 \ I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live;

God has no part in those bad choices

In God there is forgiveness and redemption for us if we have made the bad choice.

Ps 103:2-4 \ 2 Bless the Lord, O my soul, And forget not all His benefits: 3 Who forgives all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases, 4 Who redeems your life from destruction, Who crowns you with lovingkindness and tender mercies,

If others make bad choices that seem to be hurtful to our lives, we can extend our faith in God to overcome that as well.

Is 54:17 \ No weapon formed against you shall prosper, And every tongue *which* rises against you in judgment, you shall condemn. This *is* the heritage of the servants of the Lord!

We are not to accept things that rise up against us!

You are never a victim if you will simply rise up in faith and continue to press for the good life God has promised you!

Why Do Bad Things Happen?

2.Lack of knowledge which causes weak or no faith

Hos 4:6 \ My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge...

Sometimes description and bad things happen in our life due to a lack of knowledge of God's Word.

Faith begins where the will of God is known.

1 John 5:4 \ This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith.

Faith is what allows us to overcome the bad things in this life.

Rom 10:17 \ So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

James 1:6-7 \ 6 But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. 7 For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord...

Notice that a lack of faith can inhibit us from receiving the things the Lord desires us to have.

And so bad things sometimes come or remain in our lives because of a lack of faith, even though the will of God is that we have something else.

Proverbs 4:20-22 \ 20 My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings. 21 Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart. 22 For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh.

We don't have to allow bad things, that are not God's will, to remain in our lives.

Why Do Bad Things Happen?

3 . There is a real devil whose business is to steal, kill, destroy, mislead and deceive.

1 Peter 5:8 \ Be sober, be vigilant, because your adversary the devil walks about as a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

We need to realize that much of the bad that happens in life is because there is a very real devil who seek so devour.

Jesus said that it was foolishness to think that God and the Devil would work together.

Matthew 12:22-25 \ 22 The one was brought to Him who was demon-possessed, blind and mute; and He healed him, so that the blind and[a] mute man both spoke and saw. 23 And all the multitudes were amazed and said, "Could this be the Son of David?" 24 Now when the Pharisees heard it they said, "This fellow does not cast out demons except by Beelzebub, the reeler of the demons." 25 But Jesus knew their thoughts, and said to them, "Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation, and every city or house divided against itself will not stand.

God is not using the devil to do his bidding.

Job 1:1-3 \ 1 There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was blameless and upright, and one who feared God and shunned evil. 2 And seven sons and three daughters were born to him. 3 Also, his possessions were seven thousand sheep, three thousand camels, five hundred yoke of oxen, five hundred female donkeys, and a very large household, so that this man was the greatest of all the people of the East.

We see here the picture of Job.

A man that loved God and was blessed by God

And yet this good man was about to go through a bad situation.

Job 1:6-7 \ 6 Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord and Satan[b] also came among them. 7 And the Lord said to Satan, "From where do you come?" So Satan answered the Lord and said, "From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking back and forth on it."

What is the enemy doing when he goes to and fro throughout the earth?

1 Peter says He is seeking whom He may devour.

Job 1:8 \ Then the Lord said to Satan, "Have you considered My servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil?"

God was not offering Job up to Satan, He was lovingly concerned that Satan had done something to Him.

Job 1:9-11 \ 9 So Satan answered the Lord and said, "Does Job fear God for nothing? 10 Have You not made a hedge around him, around his household, and around all that he has on every side? You have blessed the work on his hands, and his possession have increased in the land. 11 But now, stretch out Your hand and touch all that he has, and he will surely curse You to Your face!"

Job 1:12 \ And the Lord said to Satan, "Behold, all that he has is in your power; only do not lay on hand on his person." So Satan went out from the presence of the Lord.

When God said, "all he has is in your power," He wasn't turning over Job to the enemy.

We are going to find out that all that came upon Job was the product of what he was fearful of.

Fear is the opposite of faith and it will always open the door for the enemy.

In Job 1:20-22 we find the misunderstood verse of scripture used to validate a false truth. "God sometimes brings bad into our lives as a part of God's plan."

Job 1:20-22 // 20 Then Job arose, and rent his mantle, and shaved his head, and fell down upon the ground, and worshipped, 21 And said, Naked I came out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord. 22 In all this Job sinned not, nor charged God foolishly.

Notice that Job did not sin in saying what he said.

What constitutes sin?

Romans 7:9 \ At one time I lived without understanding the law. But when I learned the command... sin came to life.

Sin is the product of having understanding of God and violating that understanding

Acts 17:30 \ And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commanders all men everywhere to repent...

When lack of understanding is there, God does not consider that sin, he winks at it.

The fact is that Job is the oldest book in scripture and Job lived long before the law was ever made available.

Job 1:22 \ In all this Job sinned not, nor charged God foolishly.

Job's statement was not a sinful statement BUT it was a statement without knowledge.

Foolishness and ignorance are two completely different things.

Jesus himself defined what foolishness was.

Matthew 7:26 \ But anyone who hears my teaching and doesn't obey it is foolish

What he said, although was ignorant and lacking of knowledge, was not foolish.

Countless people do this today.

Making noble-intentioned, ignorant statements about God.

Their hearts are pure and they are not sinful in saying it.

But they are just words without knowledge!

We see God shows up at the end of it all, to address this statement in Job 1, as well as all of the ignorance proclaimed for 37 chapters, for what it really is.

Job 38:1-4 // 1 The the Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind, and said: 2 "Who is this who darkens counsel By words without knowledge. Why do you talk without knowledge what you're talking about? 3 Pull yourself together, Job! Up on your feet! Stand Tall! I have some questions for you, and I was some straight answers. 4 Where were you when I created the earth? Tell me, since you know so much!

God showed up and declared that all that Job, and his miserable comforters, declared in the previous 37 chapters was "words without knowledge"

The reason Job experience what he went through was a product of "lack of knowledge" and what he was fearing of in his own heart.

Job 3:25 \ For the thing I greatly feared has come upon me, And what I dreaded has happened to me.

Job lacked revelation and faith of God's goodness.

But what did God do after Job lost everything?

Job 40:1-5 \ 1 The Lord said to Job: 2 "Will the one who contends with the Almighty correct him? Let him who accuses God answer him!" 3 Then Job answered the Lord: 4 "I am unworthy- how can I replay to you? I put my hand over my mouth. 5 I spoke once, but I have no answer- twice, but I will say no more."

God called Job's statement "The Lord give and takes away" and accusation against him

Job humbled himself and was willing to change his theology!

Because of this change in Job's believe and faith, look what happened!

Job 42:12 ,16,17 \ 12 Now the Lord blessed the latter days of Job more than his beginning... 16 After this Job lived one hundred and forty years, and saw his children and grandchildren for for generations. 17 So Job died, old and full of days.

God turned Job's situation around!!

For many people, God is simply waiting for them to stop blaming him, and to start acknowledging that He is always good.

2 Corinthians 12:7-10 \ 7 And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure. 8 Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. 9 And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. 10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

2 Corinthians 12:7 \ And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure.

Where was the messenger from that buffeted Paul?

Satan, not God.

God didn't send this messenger.

The enemy did!

Numbers 33:55 \ But if ye will not drive out the inhabitants of the land from before you; then it shall come to pass, that those which ye let remain of them shall be pricks in your eyes, and thorns in your sides, and shall vex you in the land wherein ye dwell.

Ezekiel 28:24 \ And there shall be no more a pricking brier... nor any grieving thorn of all that are round about them, that despised them; and they shall know that I am the Lord GOD.

Once again we see that the thorn in the flesh is persecution that comes from evilly inspired men.

This was Paul's thorn in the flesh as well.

2 Corinthians 11:24-26 \ 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...

His thorn in the flesh were people that tried to hinder the preaching of the Gospel.

1 Corinthians 12:7 \ And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure.

What as God's response to this hellish attack?

1 Corinthians 12:8-9 \ 8 Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. 9 And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness."

God's message to Paul was to stop looking at the persecution or difficulty and to start relying on His Grace!

1 Corinthians 12:9-10 \ 9... Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. 10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

Paul didn't say, "I'm going to thank God for my infirmities."

And he didn't say, "I'm going to boast about my infirmities."

He said "IN" my infirmities I'm going to boast!

James 1:2-4 \ 2 My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, 3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. 4 But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.

Bad things happen all the time because.....

1 People make bad choices

2 People have a lack of knowledge that causes faith failures

3 And there's a real devil out there that seeks to kill, steal, and destroy.

But when those bad things come into our life we can rise up in faith and overcome them.

Psalms 103:1-2 \ "Bless the Lord, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits:"