

## **Why Do Bad Things Happen To Good People?** *James 1:1-5*

The Omniscient God knew that His people would have to suffer persecution, and even death for some of them, at the hands of their enemies, in a godless world.

He made certain to make known that fact so we'd know that their (our) suffering would not be in vain.

*(2 Thessalonians 3:1-3 NIV) Finally, brothers, pray for us that the message of the Lord may spread rapidly and be honored, just as it was with you. {2} And pray that we may be delivered from wicked and evil men, for not everyone has faith. {3} But the Lord is faithful, and he will strengthen and protect you from the evil one.*

*(2 Timothy 3:12 NIV) In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted,*

*(Revelation 2:12-13 NIV) "To the angel of the church in Pergamum write: These are the words of him who has the sharp, double-edged sword. {13} I know where you live--where Satan has his throne. Yet you remain true to my name. You did not renounce your faith in me, even in the days of Antipas, my faithful witness, who was put to death in your city--where Satan lives.*

Life just doesn't seem fair. It's often the very best people we know who go through the worst things we can imagine. All too often it seems that the crooks get away with their meanness and even seemed to have a pipeline of blessings coming into their lives.

Our human sense of logic would like to pigeon hole everything to such a degree that when people are having troubles we can know they aren't doing right or they wouldn't have such things happen.

Of a Christian in business and it goes bankrupt. Many will look at it and say something had to be wrong with the way they were living or such a thing would never have happened.

Of parents whose children become tyrants. We have a tendency to declare them unfit parents of their children wouldn't have made such a horrible error.

Of couples in marriage. One leaves. The marriage falls apart. People begin to wonder about the Christianity of the one who was left. Must not have been living right or the other one would never have left. In so doing we ignore the teachings of the Bible.

*(1 Corinthians 7:14-15 NIV) For the unbelieving husband has been sanctified through his wife, and the unbelieving wife has been sanctified through her believing husband. Otherwise your children would be unclean, but as it is, they are holy. {15} But if the unbeliever leaves, let him do so. A believing man or woman is not bound in such circumstances; God has called us to live in peace.*

Remember the disciples when they saw the man born blind.

John 9:1-5: "As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. {2} His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" {3} "Neither this man nor his parents sinned," said Jesus, "but this happened so that the work of God might be displayed in his life. {4} As long as it is day, we must do the work of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. {5} While I am in the world, I am the light of the world."

Silly question. What could he have done before birth to have violated God's will and cause him to be born blind? Jesus declared, "Neither". They had missed the whole point.

But there is no doubt good people suffer, are persecuted, are hated by the world, are mistreated by neighbors and fellow workers and generally have problems. Why? Why do bad things happen to good people?

### **BECAUSE WE LIVE IN A WORLD INFLUENCED BY SATAN.**

When sin entered the world at Eden its affects passed on all, even those who hadn't sinned.  
*(Genesis 3:16 NIV) 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."*

God told Adam *(Genesis 3:17-19 NIV) 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."*

Much of what happens that is bad is simply because we live in the world we do. Satan is powerful. His reign has been upset and he is like tyrant over some country who has been voted out of office and is mad at the whole world now. Whatever he can do to cause pain and agony he is ready to do it. This is what Satan does when he controls.

### **BECAUSE TROUBLES CAUSE US TO GROW.**

If only good came to those who do good, we would become soft and tender footed in our spiritual life. One of the things wrong with the whole health, wealth and prosperity gospel is that it brings people into Christianity for the wrong reasons. They want something, which solves all their problems.

But trials produce endurance. They bring a spiritual toughness to us.

*(James 1:1-5 NIV) James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes scattered among the nations: Greetings. {2} Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, {3} because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. {4} Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. {5} If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him.*

Persecution causes us to turn to God many times.

*(Matthew 5:10-12 NIV) Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. {11} "Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. {12} Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.*

*(1 Peter 4:14 NIV) If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you.*

Suffering turns our hearts to the Lord.

*(Psalms 119:67 NIV) Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I obey your word.*

*(Psalms 119:71 NIV) It was good for me to be afflicted so that I might learn your decrees.*

What needs to happen for us is for us to glory in our tribulation, since such troubles bring perseverance, which produces character, which produces hope, and hope doesn't disappoint us.

*(Romans 5:1-5 NIV) Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, {2} through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. {3} Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; {4} perseverance, character; and character, hope. {5} And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.*

We are more than conquerors in all the tribulation, distress, persecution, famine, nakedness, peril or sword.

*(Romans 8:35-37 NIV) Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? {36} As it is written: "For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered." {37} No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.*

## **CONCLUSION**

Whatever the reason we have the troubles or bad things, which happen, the result can be marvelous. Our light, momentary afflictions work for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory.

*(2 Corinthians 4:16-18) Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. {17} For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. {18} So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.*

Our afflictions remind us what we already have in this life and that we certainly don't want to go to a place where that is all there is.

I may never understand all the why's of this life, but God still loves me and He longs to get me ready for an eternal home with Him. Are you ready to meet the Lord today?