

Why Does God Allow Problems?

When one asks such things, the implication is that God should not let bad things happen to good people who are trying to service Him. Most people concede that if God is bringing about some noble result, then He allows suffering, but, otherwise, God only lets good things happen to good people.

Many have been taught that God provides them with a special protection from terrible happenings.

Christianity certainly would become popular if it were true that God always intervened and give perpetual protection to all Christians, that they would never encounter any danger. The airlines certainly would want one on every plane and every hotel would want at least have one present each night to protect it from fires - **if a Christian's present would automatically assure Divine protection.**

Psalms 91:7 tells us, “A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh thee.” Verse 11 states, “For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways.”

What do these promises mean?

They mean that, in times of trouble God's angels have charge, to keep the child of God in all his ways. However, the question is, to “keep” from what? What does God's angel keep the believer from?

Certainly, God's angels do not keep all believers from illness, accidents, disappointments, poverty, sorrow, or, even death. – There are times when God does deliver His children from these things, however, there are times when He does not! Let's read Romans 8:35-39, with this question in mind. It teaches . . .

“Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? As it is written: ‘For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.’ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

God's angels will keep the believer from “separation” from Him.

The belief that God's will not allow bad things to happen to those who believe in Him is a problem that many Christians have. So often man's feelings, human reasoning say, “God doesn't let bad things happen to good people, therefore, I obviously are not really good. There must be some hidden sin in my life and I must find it, admit I, otherwise I am impugning God.”

We may *never*, in this life, learn why God permits us to suffer, nor ever, on this earth, realize the “good” that comes out of it. We may not comprehend that this problem we live

through bring about a deep encounter with God.

Why do bad things happen to good people? We may be tested by the “joys of success.” However, we, also, need to be tested by the problems, difficulties and trials of this earthly life. The real question we should be asking is, “Does a person of faith respond to the tragedies and joys that come to his life by a firm trust in God?”

QUESTIONS WE NEED TO ASKS IN TIMES OF SUFFERING IS:

- Does my trust and confidence in God grow, or is it destroyed?
- Do I reach more deeply into fellowship with God?
- Do I use the changed circumstances to serve God and to grow?
- Do times of trials and tribulation make me bitter and depressed or do they make me more conscious of my need of God and His promises?

Our response to the good and bad happenings in our lives will largely determine whether we grow, or deteriorate, as a result of them.

We are apt to be destroyed or damaged by **good** happenings as well as by bad. Fame, success, beauty or outstanding talents can lead to inner poverty, insufferable ego, misery for family and friends, even suicide.

Did you ever hear anyone ask, “*Why did God let those ‘good’ things (or these ‘blessings’) happen?*”

God will give us the capacity to respond to the ills and joys of life in ways that are constructive or destructive. We have the ability to respond negatively or positively - yet, God's love remains constant. God does not withdraw His love just because we respond badly. His presence is always there whether or not we recognize that it is.

What God has promised, through it all, is a deep and abiding sense of His presence!

Deuteronomy 29:29 promises, "*The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may follow all the words of this law.*"

God's Word reveals a great deal about, "*what we should do,*" however, far be it from us to consume our energy and mental capacity with asking questions.

"The secret things I will leave with Him!"