

# Why Does a Good God Allow Bad Things to Happen?

By Melanie Stone

Bad things do happen – natural disasters, fatal or debilitating accidents, financial calamities, tormenting abuse, malicious crimes, harmful diseases, birth defects, mental illness, broken relationships, and the like. There is something on the inside many of us that not only compels us to ***grieve*** a dreadful situation, but also incites ***conflict*** within our heart, knowing we were not intended to experience such traumatic catastrophes. Grief and conflict cause people to search for a reason why these things happen and why a good God would seem to permit them.

Three reasons why bad things happen:

## 1. **We live in a broken world**

When God created the world, He created it to be good and He created it to be a home for us. Everything we would ever need, God put on the earth, and then gave mankind authority in it and the responsibility for it.

God created people with a will, and He gave us the opportunity to choose whether to give Him lordship or not. When Adam and Even decided to sin, it caused a separation from God, allowing death to enter. God did not originate evil, pain, and suffering – this came as a result of sin taking what was good and twisting it away from God’s plan. Illnesses are a result of death working in our bodies. Poverty is a result of the lack we experience apart from God, our source.

Even the earth is groaning for redemption because of sin and death. Therefore hurricanes, tornadoes, earthquakes, fires, and other natural catastrophes were not intended for us. Sin has allowed them into our world.

*Romans 8:2 “For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now.”*

God is a faithful God who honors the authority He delegated to mankind. He has allowed us to make choices, including our choice to bring sin into the world.

## 2. **We sometimes make wrong choices**

Sometimes when our life is a mess it is because of choices we have made or choices someone else has made. God has given mankind the ability and the right to make choices. God allows us to choose what actions we will take, and He allows us to experience the consequences of those choices.

*Galatians 6:7, 8 “(7) Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. (8) For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the spirit, will of the spirit reap everlasting life.”*

**3. We have a spiritual enemy**

Not everyone realizes this, but there are times when an evil spirit can be working against us. Evil spirits are real, and they are out to stop us from reigning in life and from building God's kingdom. The reason there are evil spirits in our world is because mankind opened the door to the enemy through sin. God allowed us to open that door.

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

When some people do not understand why bad things happen, they might question why God would allow it. Others, not finding an answer, will even **blame** God for catastrophe, not knowing how else to reconcile their thoughts, questions, and fears. However, God wants to be known for who He is, which is a good Father who lovingly cares for His children. He allowed mankind to cause the earth to be in the condition it is in; however, because of His love for us, God choose to redeem us from evil by sending His Son, Jesus, to pay the price for our sin and reverse the curse sin brings.

**How you can overcome difficulty:**

**1. Look to God for restoration**

Ask God for His mercy and help. Don't base your request on your goodness, which doesn't measure up, but base your request on His goodness, which is more than enough. When Jesus died on the cross, He made the way for salvation, healing, provision, and wholeness.

**2. Repent and ask for grace to make right choices**

If you have made a wrong choice, turn back to God in humility. Ask God for His grace to empower you to overcome in this life.

**3. Take authority over your spiritual enemy**

- Be aware. Ephesians 6:12
- Don't give the enemy an opportunity. Ephesians 4:27
- Resist the enemy. James 4:7
- Take authority over the enemy. Luke 10:19

In conclusion, know that God is greater than any situation you will ever face. Even death is under His feet with the promise of eternal life. Believe that God can take any problem you face, and turn it around for His good.

*Romans 8:28 "And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose."*