

# *If God Is So Good, Then...*

*(facing things you can't believe God allowed)*

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## **Romans 8:28 NLT**

**“And 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.”**

She made her way up to the front of the church where I stood. I had never seen her before. She introduced herself and asked one probing direct question. She had an exasperated look on her face as she simply inquired, “Why do bad things happen to good people?”

This was a jarring, yet reasonable question. I responded something like, “God is a God of love, and when we don’t understand the things that He allows, we must reach out to Him trusting that He will give us peace in our hearts over the issue in due time.”

I could see clearly that this was not enough of an answer for her. Her question, therefore, nagged at me for a long time after that moment.

If God is so good, why DO bad things happen? As I began to probe for a simple enough answer that I could give to an inquirer in five minutes or less, the reality dawned on me that multiple volumes have been penned in attempts to plumb the depths of this issue.

As I pondered the subject, it became clear that both cynics and seekers must also ask other reasonable questions such as:

- Was she concluding that there was no God at all?
- Was she saying that God could not be good if bad things happened to people?
- Did she believe that God exists, but has little or no control over the events of our lives?

I would love to report that I solved her problem that evening. I don't believe I did. Actually, I am not sure that I ever saw her again, to my regret. What the encounter did do was send me on a journey of prayer, study and wrestling with this sobering issue.

I investigated the life of a man who lived in ancient times whose name was Job. What a case study! There are precious few people whose tragedies can be evenly compared to this man's, yet, in the midst of his agony he declared, "Should we accept only good things from the hand of God and never anything bad?"

Another question to ponder is this, "What would happen if God's nature were different from what is clearly expressed in the Bible?" - that is, that He is a God of infinite love who cares about all people everywhere. Here are some of the unfortunate alternatives:

- If God is a bad god, then we cannot question why bad things happen in the world. Bad gods do bad things.
- If there is no God, all bets are off, and we have no one to blame when bad things happen.

I have firmly concluded that God is good, and that even when He allows bad things, He must have a purpose so great that all of the events that happen under His sovereignty will have a way of knitting themselves together in a way that gets the world's attention and causes us at last, to bring us into better alignment with His purposes and his will for our lives.

The apostle, Paul (a man painfully familiar with personal tragedy), in Romans 8:28, declared, "And 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."

There is one thing I am overjoyed about. I am so glad that bad things happened to Jesus Christ. When they did, very good things happened for you and me!