

Why Does God Allow *[the innocent]* to Suffer?

WHY DO BAD THINGS HAPPEN TO GOOD PEOPLE?

These 20 answers are mostly from the Bible.

1. Keeps others from exalting us. Paul was given a “thorn in the flesh.” II Cor 12.7 “lest I should be exalted above measure”
2. Teach us to accept trouble graciously & gratefully James 1.2,3 “count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations. . .the trying of your faith worketh *[produces]* patience.” I Peter 1.6,7 “the trial of your faith”
3. What kind of world would it have to be if children were miraculously not susceptible from getting *[deadly]* sick, falling down stairs, hurt in car wrecks, or else sheltered from all potentially mortal childhood diseases?
4. Punishment for “little” sins Num 20.8 Moses not allowed to enter the promised land because of sin.
5. There are no “innocent.” Rom 3.23 “for all have sinned” Nobody avoids the consequences of sins.
6. Children reap what parents sow. Ex 20 “visiting the iniquities of the fathers upon the children”
7. God knows best. *even parents know best when kids don’t* Isa 55.8,9 “My thoughts are not your thoughts. . .as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways”
8. Gives us an opportunity to minister to others. I was able to comfort 2 of my Bible college students who lost children because we had 6 miscarriages ourselves. We lost our first on Mother’s Day.
9. God’s only Son was tortured to death. God knows what it’s like to lose a child. Isa 53. “He was bruised for our iniquities.” Heb 4.5 We have a High Priest, Jesus, who can be touched with our pain.
10. We may have the opportunity to help others through the death of a child donate: eyes, hearts, kidneys, liver, blood, empathy, time II Cor 1.4 “*[He]* comforts us. . .so we can comfort *[others]*.”
11. Is God trying to build strength, thankfulness, empathy, or kindness into my life?
12. Some get extra grace because God allows, or sends trials. II Cor 12.7,9 “My grace is sufficient for thee.”
13. Some suffer because someone else was just stupid, drunk, immoral, hateful, or careless Genesis 4.8 “Cain rose up against Abel, his brother, and slew him.” Joshua 9.1,5 Achan stole ⇒ 36 die
14. Helps us to examine ourselves Psalm 119.71 Job 5.17 “happy is the man whom God correcteth.”
15. Paul was in jail so many could trust Jesus as Savior, *even though some Christians were glad*. Phil 1.12 This happened “unto the furtherance of the Gospel.” Phil 2.30 “for the work of the Lord *[Epaphroditus]* was nigh unto death.”
16. Early death prevents some kids from growing up in godless homes, or prevents them from getting into a life of crime. I Kings 14.13 One of Jeroboam’s small children was spared growing up in a wicked family, because God allowed him to die young.
17. Thousands of people have become internally stronger because terrible things have happened. You probably know somebody who became kinder, stronger, more helpful, or more thankful because he/she went through tragedy, bankruptcy, illness, rejection, or deep sorrow.
18. Old age brings a hunger for Heaven. Just living in mortal bodies reminds us that there is something better which lasts for eternity. II Corinthians 5.1-7
19. It teaches us to glory in our infirmities or “*take pleasure in my infirmities*” Godly people learn patience pretty quickly but it is another step up to take pleasure through trouble and infirmities—when God chooses to give neither a reason nor a solution. Are we deeply thankful in it? God might choose never to relieve us—for His glory. Exod. 4.11 “I *[JHVH]* make. . .deaf or dumb. . .sight or blind.”
20. To glorify God Matt 9.8, lame man healed, people glorified God

It can be truly said that “No good thing will He withhold to them that walk uprightly.”

Sparkle, Christians. God is good, all the time—especially when. . .

NOT EVERYBODY IS LIKE YOU, thank goodness.

- How to help people who feel like blaming God.
- The same advice doesn't help all people.
- What to remember when trying to help good people when bad things happen.

1. People who said, "I'm sorry for your loss," deeply annoyed my friend after the death of her son.
2. People sincerely want to help. Remember that what others say to you in your time of grief is the kind of thing that probably helped them in a similar situation.
3. Not everybody appreciates the "sandwich" style of criticism. Some do.
 - * say something uplifting first
 - * next address their fault, shortcoming, sin, or weakness lovingly
 - * end with an encouraging Word
4. Some like it straight from the shoulder. They also like to deliver it the same way. "*Su es un pecador!!!*"
Some would rather have criticism accompanied with hugs and tears, maybe in a story.
Others won't get the "point" of a story.
5. Some respond to Bible verses, others don't.
Pro 21:11 When the scorner is punished, the simple is made wise: and when the wise is instructed, he receiveth knowledge. (Note the 3 kinds of people who learn in 3 different ways.)
Pro 19:25 Smite a scorner, and the simple will beware: and reprove one that hath understanding, and he will understand knowledge.
6. We never outgrow our need for advice.
7. sometimes a clear firm answer is best.
Jos 7:6,10 Joshua rent his clothes, and fell to the earth upon his face before the ark of the Lord.
The LORD said unto Joshua, "Get thee up; what are you doing lying on thy face?"