

WHY DO BAD THINGS HAPPEN? → VIDEO

THERE COULD BE 4 REASONS “WHY” BAD THINGS HAPPEN.

1. Suffering is a result of sin. People disobey. As a result of poor choices the consequences cause suffering. When we do wrong, we suffer the consequences.
2. Suffering is part of being human.
 - a. The World is NOT FAIR.
 - b. Other people make bad choices that cause our suffering
 - c. There seems to be **random suffering** that exists.
 - d. Boy with alcoholic mom
3. Suffering teaches us dependence on God.
 - a. Suffering, many times gives us the opportunity to look OUTSIDE of ourselves
 - b. We can be bitter if bad things happen to us. However, we can choose to look outside of that bitterness.
 - c. We give this pain and suffering to God.
 - d. Surrender to God.
 - e. Athlete with mono/ acne/ then his family moved!
4. To Strengthen us.
 - a. WE are not robots
 - b. WE are FREE to make our choices
 - c. Girl whose friend commits suicide and the friend who is left to deal with the suffering of her friend's death.

THREE POSSIBLE RESPONSES TO SUFFERING (THERE MAY BE OTHERS!)

1. Resentment:
 - a. Become bitter. Feel as though the world is not fair.
 - b. Result of this response: people are driven away from you.
2. Martyr:
 - a. Trophy from God: Behave as though the suffering is given to you by God to test you and to make you a better person.
 - b. Result of this response: Suffering then becomes a selfish means to glorify oneself.
3. Trust:
 - a. Trust that all will be well
 - b. We may never know why bad things happen
 - c. Don't get bogged down in the feelings of woe and despair
 - d. Result of Trust: Healthy understanding of suffering. More mature response to suffering. One sees the world as a good place and is not afraid of life.

WHY DID GOD NOT CREATE A PERFECT WORLD?

He did! And he loves us so much that he always gives us the ability to make choices. Sometimes those choices have negative consequences. And, sometimes the poor choices of others adversely affects us.

Who is God?

1. God of Love: we have choice to love God
2. God as a judge: God hates sin, loves the sinner
3. God is COMPASSION: able to suffer with us and embrace our pain.