

Why does God let bad things happen to good people?

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- First of all, no one is good or righteous/clean in God's sight so it would be fair for him to not give anything good to anyone if it was based on works. (Psalm 143:2, Rom 3:9-20, 23, Galatians 2:16).
- But God gives forgiveness and eternal life as a free gift of grace to those who have faith. (Romans 3:21-25; 6:23).
- He also gives good to all, his common grace to all people, all good things come from him. (Matthew 5:45 and James 1:17).
- Bad things happen to good people (people who live a decent life) because sin and Satan control this world (for now and under God's sovereignty) and people do bad to other people. (Romans 8:19-23; Ephesians 6:12, Ephesians 2:2, 2 Corinthians 4:4, Romans 1:18-31).
- Even natural disasters and diseases happen because this world is fallen, humanity is fallen—sin is rampant. God also uses these things for his purposes that he sees fit. (Romans 8:19-23, Psalm 135:4-7, Exodus 9:13-16, Exodus 4:11, Job 2:10, Proverbs 16:4).
- Bad things happen to good people (Christians) to develop character—likeness to Christ and reliance on God. (James 1:2-4, Romans 5:3-4, Romans 8:28-29, 2 Corinthians 12:7-10).
- God also uses bad things and evil to bring about greater good and to show his qualities fully. (Genesis 50:20, Romans 9:22-23, Romans 5:20).
- Christ is the ultimate example of God letting bad things happen to a good person so that his purposes and glory would be made known. (2 Cor 5:21; Is 53:4-6, 10-12).
- Because God is all-powerful and all-good, he will eliminate all evil (bad things) in the future. (Rev 21:3-4).
- We may never know the “why” answers to our specific questions when we ask why bad things happen—but God still reveals himself as all-knowing and great, and therefore worthy of continuing in his presence. (Job, Asaph in Ps 73)