

# WHY DOES GOD ALLOW CHRISTIANS TO SUFFER?



Tragedy



Accidents



Sickness



# WHY DO **BAD** THINGS HAPPEN TO **GOOD** PEOPLE?



**The unbelieving critic:** “Why would a God who is all-good & loving, all-knowing, and all-powerful allow bad things to happen to good people?”

**Question may also be asked in sincerity:** “How could God let this happen to me and to mine, why would God not stop this pain and help me?”



# WHY DO **BAD** THINGS HAPPEN TO **GOOD** PEOPLE?



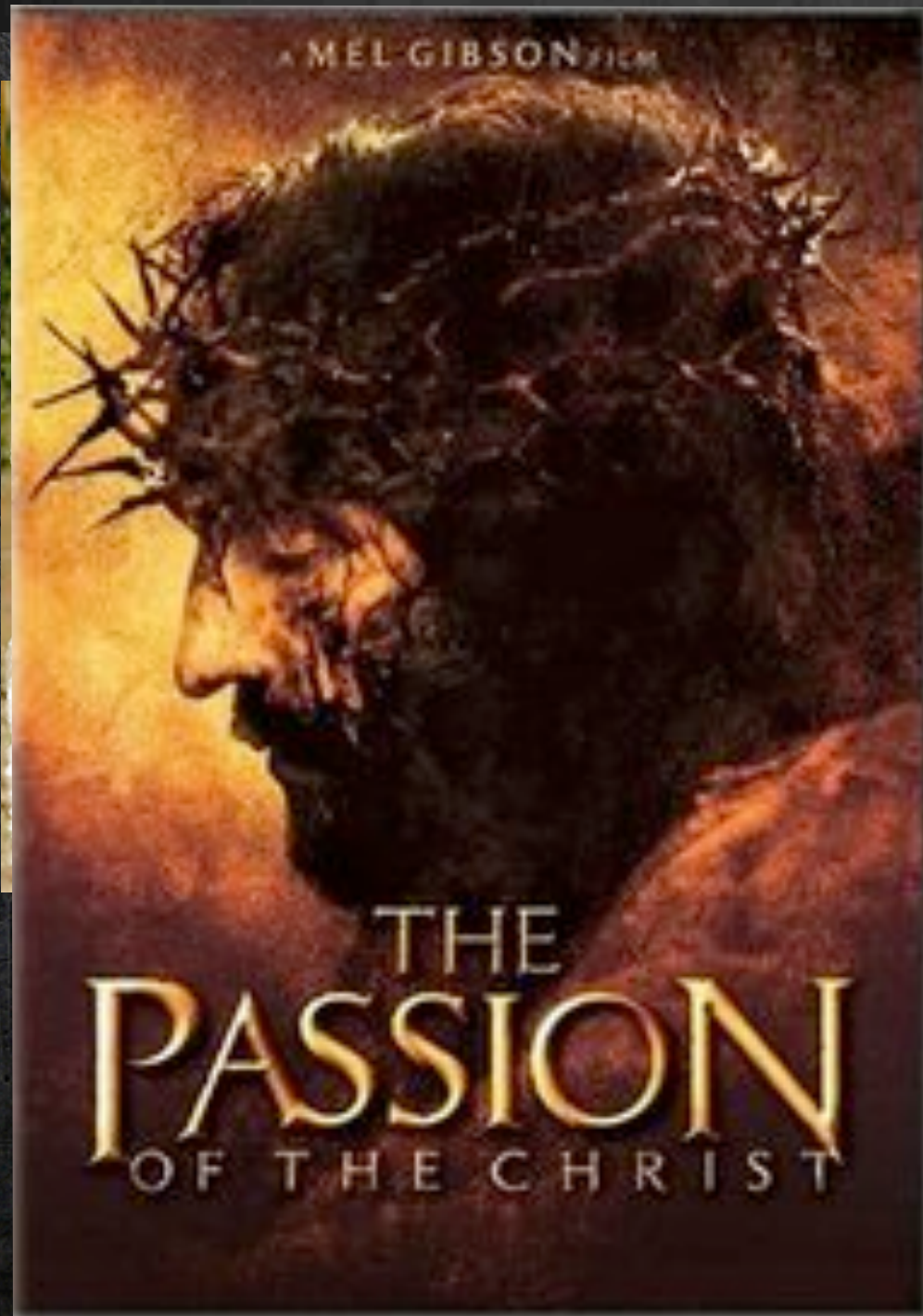
● **A Reality** - Good (godly) people do suffer!

**Matthew 5:45 (NKJV)**

“that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.”



# WHY DO **BAD** THINGS HAPPEN TO **GOOD** PEOPLE?



● **A Reality** - Good (godly) people do suffer!

- ✦ Suffering of Able - Gen 4
- ✦ Suffering of Job - Job 1:20-22; 2:10; 13:15; James 5:11
- ✦ Suffering of Joseph - Gen 37:23-36; 39:1-41:14
- ✦ Suffering of Paul - 2:Cor. 11:22-30; 12:7-10
- ✦ Suffering of Jesus! Phil 2:5-9



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“An obedient faith in Jesus Christ does not guarantee a good life, but a perfect eternity.”



# WHY DO **BAD** THINGS HAPPEN TO **GOOD** PEOPLE?



James 1:16-17  
(NKJV)

<sup>16</sup> Do not be deceived,  
my beloved brethren.  
<sup>17</sup> Every good gift and  
every perfect gift is  
from above, and  
comes down from the  
Father of lights, with  
whom there is no  
variation or shadow  
of turning.



# WHY DO **BAD** THINGS HAPPEN TO **GOOD** PEOPLE?

Due To Sin, Mankind & His Environment Became  
Subject To Hardship, Sickness & Death

## **The Creation (Genesis 1)**

- ✦ Everything God made was pronounced “very good” (Gen 1:31).
- ✦ Eden was an incomparable paradise - no sickness, disease, pathogens, genetic flaws, viruses, etc.
- ✦ Natural laws were implemented for man’s good - No harm could come to them as long as they didn’t violate God’s law.





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## **The Fall (Genesis 3).**



- ✦ When Adam & Eve sinned, everything changed, (Gen 3:14-19).
- ✦ Humanity was subject to the sweat of toil, the pain of thorns, & death - “till thou return unto the ground” (Gen 3:17–19, 22–24; Rom 5:12; Heb 9:27; Ecc1 12:1-6; Ps. 90:10; James 4:13-16)
- ✦ Entropy began when man sinned.



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Due To Sin, Mankind & His Environment Became  
Subject To Hardship, Sickness & Death

## **The Flood (Genesis 6–8).**



- ✦ God's judgment due to the wickedness of man - (Gen 6:5-7,11-13)
- ✦ Reduced lifespan mentioned in 6:1-4 - something changed after the flood that drastically reduced the years men live.
- ✦ The breaking of the firmament caused climatic changes with storms and other types of natural disasters.



# WHY DO **BAD** THINGS HAPPEN TO **GOOD** PEOPLE?

We Are Foolish & Make Bad Decisions



✿ **Suffering can be, and often is, self-inflicted.**

- ✱ Why did Adam & Eve suffer? - (Gen 3:17-19)
- ✱ David's sins had devastating consequences - (2 Sam 12:7-14)
- ✱ We are all born with the ability to choose good or evil - (Joshua 24:15; Rom 6:16-18).



# WHY DO **BAD** THINGS HAPPEN TO **GOOD** PEOPLE?

We Are Foolish & Make Bad Decisions



✿ **Suffering can be, and often is, self-inflicted.**

- ✿ We reap what we sow - for every action there is a related consequence! (Deut 30:15-20; Gal 6:7-9)
- ✿ For every sin there is a negative consequence - some more evident than others - (*Crime / immorality / alcohol & drug abuse / gossip / envy / etc.*)



# WHY DO **BAD** THINGS HAPPEN TO **GOOD** PEOPLE?

We Are Connected Thus The Potential To  
Be Injured By Other's Decisions



✿ **Much of the pain in this world is collateral.**

- ✿ Israel lost the battle at Ai due to Achan's sin - (Josh. 7:10-12)
- ✿ Jonah's rebellion caused a ship's crew to be caught in a storm (Jon 1:14).
- ✿ Herod left a whole village to grieve (Matthew 2:16-18).



# WHY DO **BAD** THINGS HAPPEN TO **GOOD** PEOPLE?

We Are Connected Thus The Potential To  
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✿ **Much of the pain in this world is collateral.**

- ✿ Innocents have always suffered because others choose greed, lust, hate, addiction, and selfishness.
- ✿ People are killed on highways every day by drinking drivers.
- ✿ Slander & gossip have ruined reputations & lives - James 3:5,6



# WHY DO **BAD** THINGS HAPPEN TO **GOOD** PEOPLE?

We Are Connected Thus The Potential To  
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✿ **Much of the pain in this world is collateral.**

- ✱ Children suffer because a parent is addicted to gambling, drugs, alcohol . . .
- ✱ Divorce is a treacherous act that brings pain & suffering - Mal 2:13-16
- ✱ Parents suffer when their children choose the path of sin & rebellion.
- ✱ We do not sin in a vacuum - Rom 14:7



# WHY DO **BAD** THINGS HAPPEN TO **GOOD** PEOPLE?

We Are Vulnerable & Suffer From Man's  
Inhumanity To Man.

**God allows the freedom for men to  
choose evil**

- ✦ When Cain's anger turned violent (Gen 4:5-8), God did not stop him.
- ✦ The antediluvian world was filled with violence - Gen 6:5,11
- ✦ God will eventually right the scales of justice at the final tribunal (Matthew 25:31-33; Hebrews 10:31).





# WHY DO **BAD** THINGS HAPPEN TO **GOOD** PEOPLE?

We Are Vulnerable & Suffer From Man's  
Inhumanity To Man.

✿ **The “might-makes-right” crowd  
takes advantage of others.**

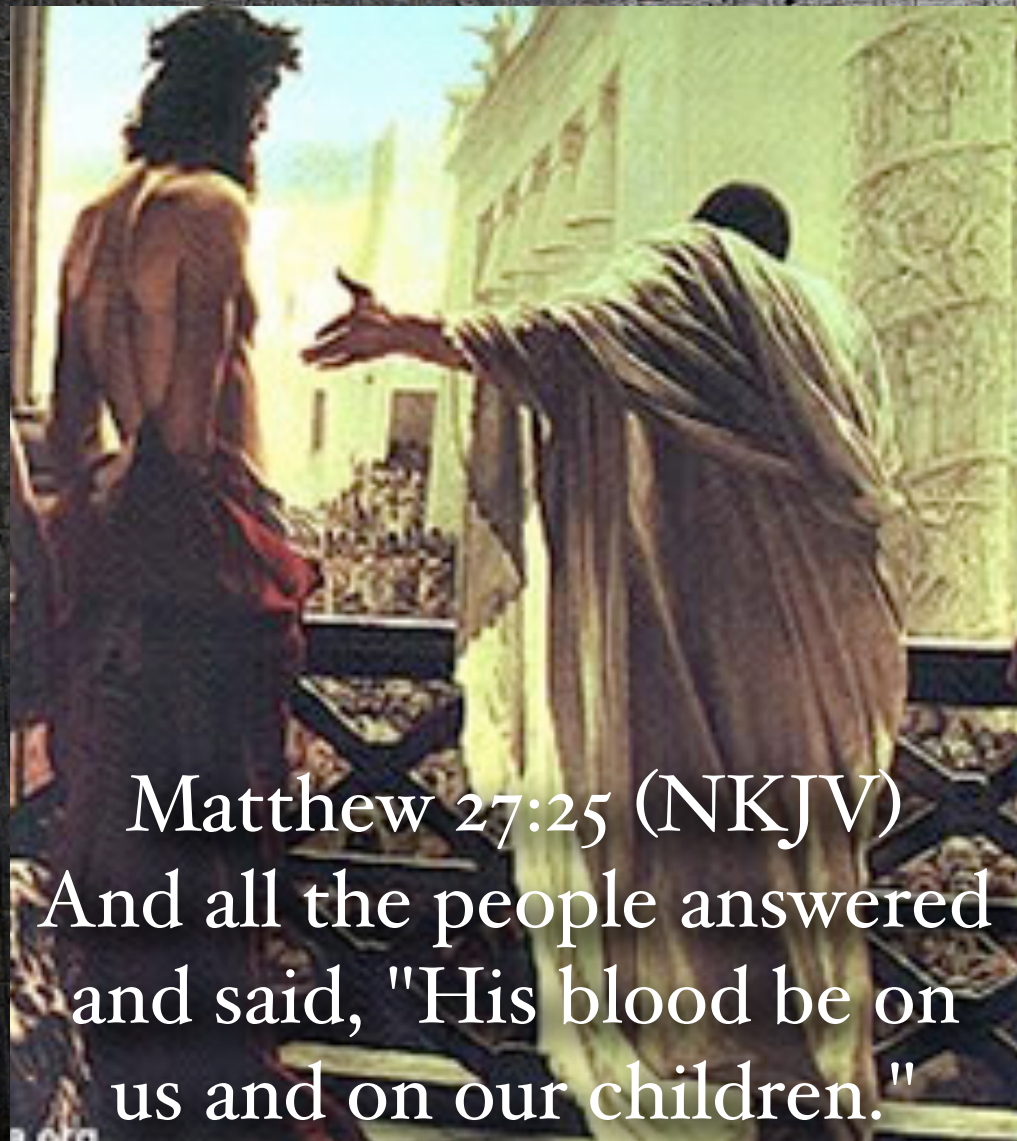


- ✿ Terrorists plot, murder, and destroy.
- ✿ Criminal cowards shoot innocent children in schools and target moviegoers catching a Batman flick.
- ✿ Drug addicts steal & kill . . .
- ✿ Rapist traumatize their victims . . .
- ✿ Greedy businessmen, Identity thieves .



# WHY DO **BAD** THINGS HAPPEN TO **GOOD** PEOPLE?

Those In Darkness Hate Those In The Light



Matthew 27:25 (NKJV)

And all the people answered  
and said, "His blood be on  
us and on our children."

**John 3:19–20 (NKJV)**

<sup>19</sup> And this is the condemnation,  
that the light has come into the  
world, and men loved darkness  
rather than light, because their  
deeds were evil. <sup>20</sup> For everyone  
practicing evil hates the light  
and does not come to the light,  
lest his deeds should be  
exposed.



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Those In Darkness Hate Those In The Light



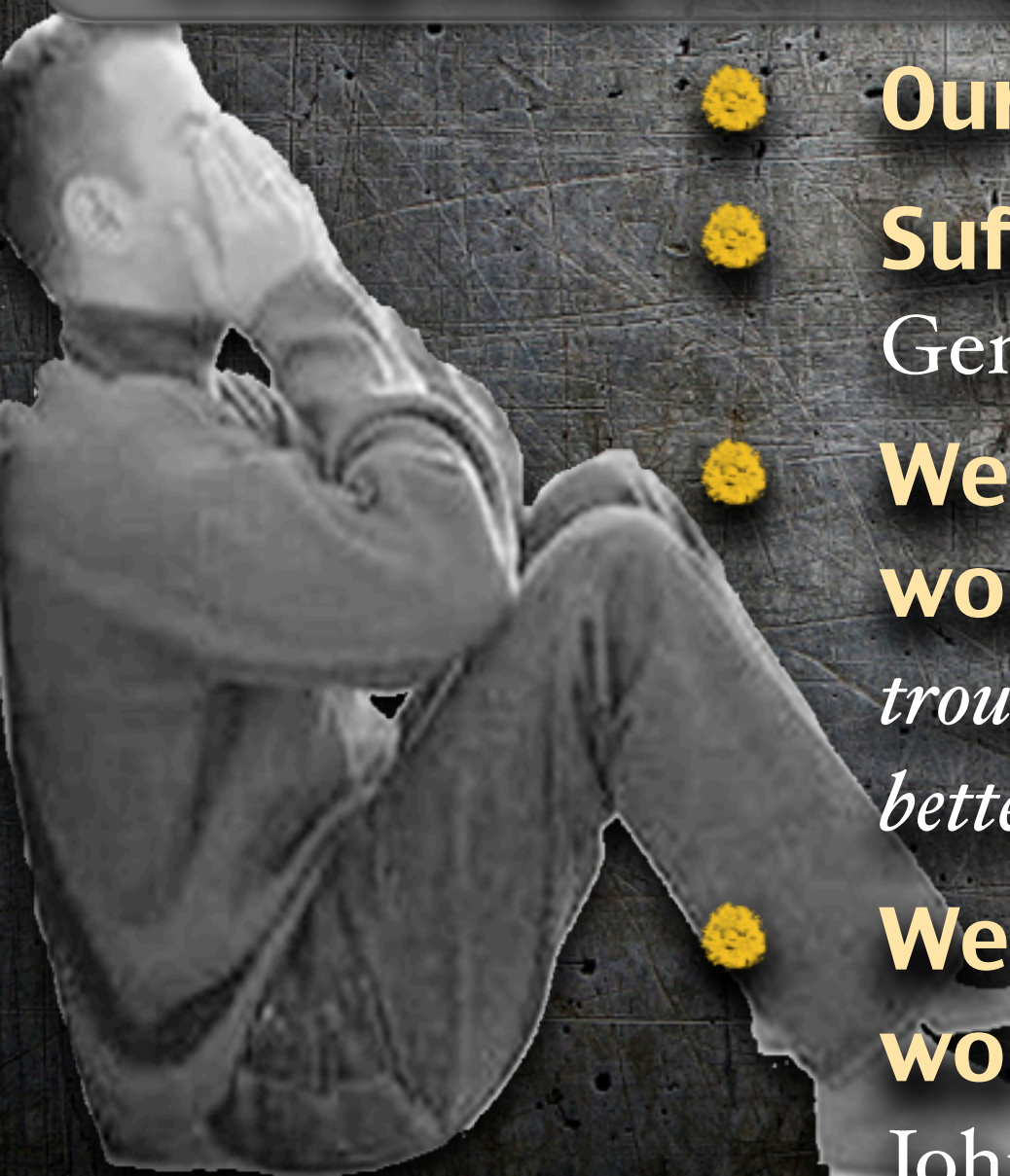
**Christians in the NT suffered at the hands of their enemies**

- ✦ Jesus was executed on a cross even though He lived a sinless life (Matthew 27:35).
- ✦ His followers would also suffer in this world (John 16:33).
- ✦ “Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution” (2 Timothy 3:12).



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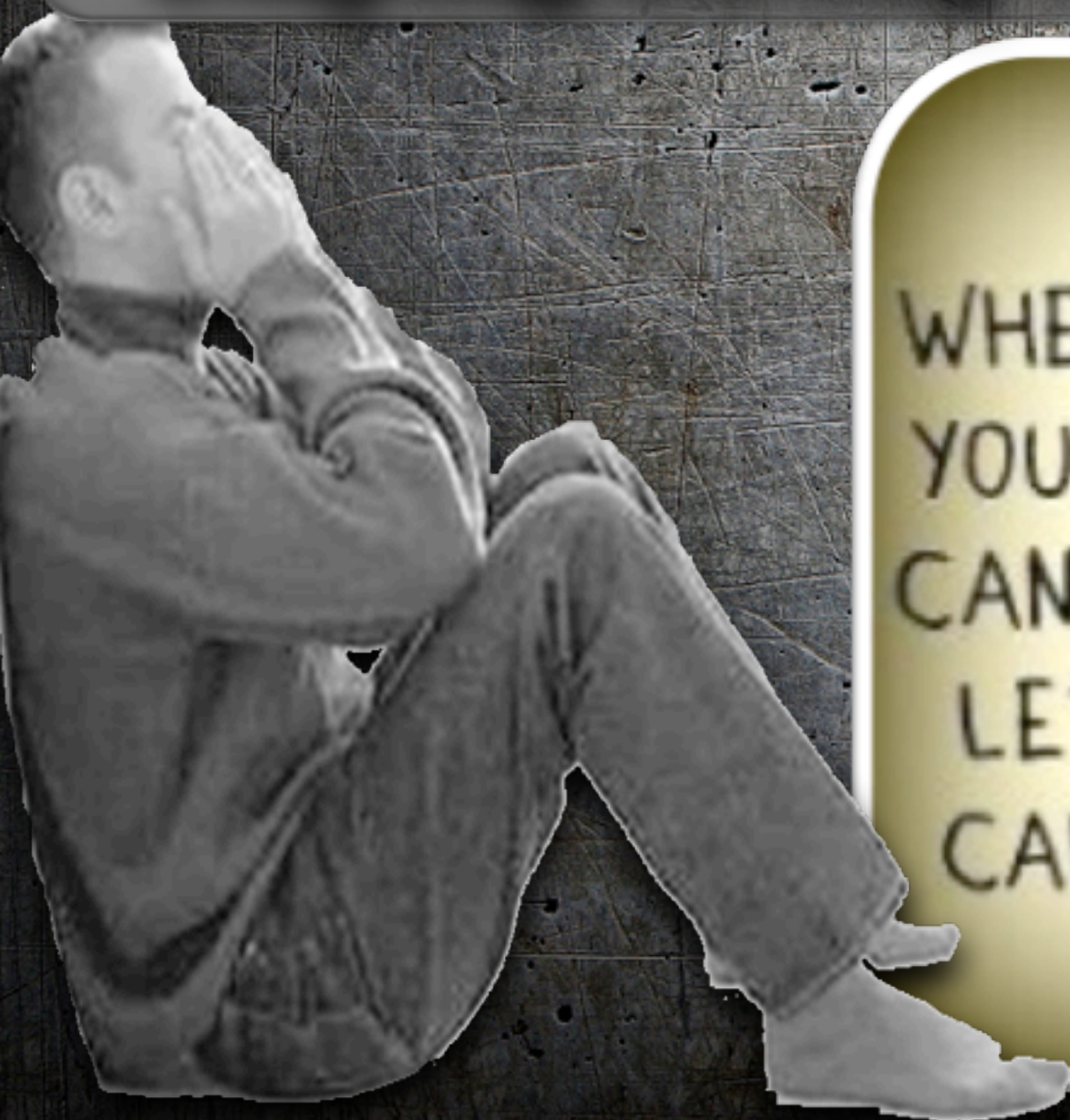
## Staying Strong When Things Go Wrong

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- **Our days are full of trouble** – Job 14:1
  - **Suffering is a consequence of man's sin** – Gen. 3:19; Rom. 5:12
  - **We are sojourners, pilgrims through a world full of hardship & trouble** – *(the troubles of this life should prompt us to seek something better)* – Heb 11:13-16; 1 Pet 2:11
  - **We should realize that EVERYTHING in this world is temporary** *(including its troubles)* – 1 John 2:15-17; 2 Cor 4:8-9,16-18



# WHY DO **BAD** THINGS HAPPEN TO **GOOD** PEOPLE?

Staying Strong When Things Go Wrong



WHEN SOMETHING BAD HAPPENS  
YOU HAVE THREE CHOICES. YOU  
CAN EITHER LET IT DEFINE YOU,  
LET IT DESTROY YOU, OR YOU  
CAN LET IT STRENGTHEN YOU.



# WHY DO **BAD** THINGS HAPPEN TO **GOOD** PEOPLE?

## Staying Strong When Things Go Wrong



- **Understanding the purpose of trials –**

James 1:2-16; 5:13-18

- **Cast our cares upon the Lord for He cares for us! –** 1 Pet 5:6-11; Heb 13:5,6

- **Prepare For Storms before they come! –**

Mat. 7:24-27; Luke 21:36; 2 Pet. 1:5-10

- **Guard against anxiety / worry –**

Mat. 6:25-34; Phil. 4:4-13; 1 Cor. 10:13

- **Enjoy the good times & be thankful! –**

Eccl. 5:18; 1 Tim 6:17; James 1:17

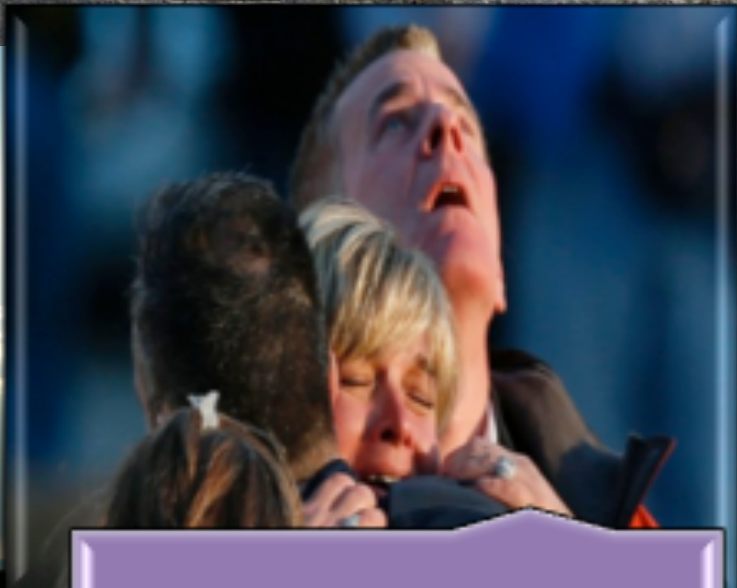


# WHY DO **BAD** THINGS HAPPEN TO **GOOD** PEOPLE?

“God washes the eyes by tears until they can behold the invisible land where tears shall come no More.” - *Henry Ward Beecher*



Tragedy



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# WHY DO **BAD** THINGS HAPPEN TO **GOOD** PEOPLE?



## **1 Peter 5:6–10 (NKJV)**

<sup>6</sup> Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, <sup>7</sup> casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.



# WHY DO **BAD** THINGS HAPPEN TO **GOOD** PEOPLE?



## **1 Peter 5:6–10 (NKJV)**

<sup>8</sup> Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. <sup>9</sup> Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.



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## **1 Peter 5:6–10 (NKJV)**

<sup>10</sup> But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you.



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