

IF Week #3

How Could God Allow Good People To Be Eternally Punished?

Four Common Assumptions

- 1) People are typically good with a little bad.
- 2) Not everyone has a sufficient opportunity to know about God.
- 3) God only deals with people as individuals.
- 4) It would be best if God would forgive everyone and punish no one.

Four Presuppositions Of The Christian Faith

1. Good People Are Not Necessarily Righteous People—There Are No Innocent People.
2. Everyone Has A Sufficient Opportunity To Know About God.
3. God Does Not Deal Only With Individuals.
4. God Would Not Be Righteous If Sinful People Were Not Punished.

How Could God Allow Bad Things To Happen To Good People?

Two Common Assumptions

- 1) I deserve better from God.
- 2) I am wiser than God regarding what I need and therefore my agenda is better than God's agenda.



Rabbi Kushner's perspective

Because man is good and God is good and bad things happen to good people, God is not involved in bad things, not only not allowing them, but not able to stop them from happening.

Two Presuppositions Of The Christian Faith

1. No One Deserves Good From God
2. Man Is Never Wiser Than God Regarding What Man Needs And, Therefore, Man's Agenda Is Never As Good As God's Agenda.

There are more important things to God than keeping sinful man from suffering.

God ordains what He hates to accomplish what He loves.

Three Things God Loves

- 1) He loves exposing man's sin so as to make him seek God.

When God Weeps, Tada & Estes, pg. 142 & 143

The beauty of being exposed and empty is that God can then cover you. Like a surface that must be scrubbed clean before you can bond anything to it, the bonding of intimacy between God and us won't adhere until the film of dirt goes, the ambitions, the vanity, everything that sets itself up against others and God....

Affliction is the gristmill where pride is reduced to powder, leaving our souls naked, bare, and bonded to Christ. And it feels beautiful.

- 2) He loves perfecting the inner being of His followers, keeping their hearts where they were designed to be.

James 1:2-4

²Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, ³knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. ⁴And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

2 Corinthians 1:8-9

We were crushed and overwhelmed beyond our ability to endure and we thought we would never live through it. But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves, but on God.

Romans 5:1-5

¹Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ²through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we exult in hope of the glory of God. ³And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; ⁴and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope; ⁵and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

1 Peter 1:6-7

⁶In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials, ⁷so that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

Philippians 3:7-9

⁷But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ, ⁹and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith,

Hebrews 12:11

¹¹ All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness.

When God Weeps, Tada & Estes, pg. 202 & 204

Earth's pain keeps crushing our hopes, reminding us this world can never satisfy; only heaven can. And every time we begin to nestle too comfortably on this planet, God cracks open the locks of the dam to allow an ice-cold splash of suffering to wake us from our spiritual slumber. Suffering keeps swelling our feet so that earth's shoes won't fit.... Suffering sandblasts us to the core, removing sin and impurities so that intimacy with Jesus is possible.

Paraphrase of Paul Tripp

We assume the present is designed to be a comfortable destination, but it's not. The present's design (because of sin in this world), is to be an uncomfortable preparation for a very comfortable destination.

- 3) He loves administering justice so that His righteousness is not compromised.

Conclusion**Jesus' (The true Rabbi?) perspective**

Because man is not good and God is good, bad things happen to people, not merely because they deserve them, but better yet because those who do (or will) follow Him need them.

Questions from The Gospel Of John

10. What does Jesus mean when He says He is the bread of life? (John 6:35)
11. What does Jesus mean when He keeps saying His time has not yet come? (John 7:8, 30)
12. What did Jesus teach was the consequence of not believing that He was the Christ (The Messiah prophesied in the Old Testament who was to be the only payment for man's sins)? (John 8:24)
13. Jesus taught that to be His disciple meant to follow His Word. What does it mean to hold to His teaching? (John 8:31)
14. What does it mean to be free? (John 8:32-36)
15. The Jews of Jesus' day certainly had a strong belief in God. Did Jesus accept such a belief as sufficient? (John 8:38-47)
16. What did Jesus mean when He said, "I tell you the truth, before Abraham was born, I am!"? (John 8:58)
17. What does Jesus mean when He said, "I am the gate for the sheep"? (John 10:7)
18. Why did the Jews want to kill Jesus? (John 10:30-33)



TO SUBMIT A QUESTION ELECTRONICALLY:
Text your question to: 678.929.4470
Email your question to: ifgod@perimeter.org