

him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith.

Hebrews 12:11

For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

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 the earth's shoes won't fit....Suffering sandblasts us to the core, removing sin and impurities so that intimacy with Jesus is possible.

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

The true Rabbi's (Jesus?) 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.

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.

HOW CAN A
GOOD GOD
ALLOW SO
MANY **BAD**
THINGS TO
HAPPEN
TO **GOOD**
PEOPLE?

8 PRIMARY QUESTIONS SERIES

Randy Pope

Two Common Assumptions

1. I deserve better from God.

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.

2. I am wiser than God regarding what I need and therefore my agenda is better than God's agenda.

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.

Joni Eareckson Tada

God allows 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 a person's inner being, keeping his heart where it was 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 rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, ⁷so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

Philippians 3:7-9

But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹and be found in