

# Tough Questions for God

## Why Does God Allow Suffering?

*Bad things happen. No one's arguing that. But sometimes life just seems so unfair. The greatest saints seem to experience a disproportionate amount of life's lemons. And it doesn't help when someone quips, "In every life, a little rain must fall." Especially when life is pouring buckets on us. The why question haunts us. This week, we'll take some time to see what the Bible says about why bad things happen to good people.*

Romans 5:1-5

### Why do bad things happen?

1. Because we live in a \_\_\_\_\_
2. Because we are \_\_\_\_\_
3. Because we (or others) make \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### What's the purpose behind the bad things that happen?

1. To \_\_\_\_\_ us  
*It stretches us*
2. To \_\_\_\_\_ us  
*It corrects us*
3. To \_\_\_\_\_ us from succeeding

*Truth: Not everything we perceive as bad is bad. Sometimes our \_\_\_\_\_ is wrong.*

### Additional Notes

# Digging Deeper and Going Further

Read James 1:1–18; Romans 5:1–8; Job 1; and John 9:1–6. These passages were written to help readers understand the purpose behind suffering. The question of why bad things happen to good people is as old as time.

1. What are the three reasons Dr. Bill gave as to why bad things happen?

---

---

---

2. James writes about testing, trials, and temptations. What do you think is the difference between the three?

---

---

---

3. Who does the writer of Job blame for Job’s misfortunes? Who do you think was to blame?

---

---

4. In John 9, why does Jesus say the man was born blind?

---

5. In both James and Romans the writers suggest suffering should be seen as a good thing. What “good” can come from suffering?

---

---

6. Read Romans 8:28. What is the difference between “God works for the good” (NIV) and “All things work together for good” (KJV)? Do you think God makes things “good” regardless of the circumstances? Why do you think so?

---

---

---

7. Why do you think God “allows” suffering?

---

---