

GOD QUESTIONS

June 24th / 25th, 2023
Pastor Steve

Why Do Bad Things Happen?

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith. Because of the joy awaiting him, he endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now he is seated in the place of honor beside God's throne.

Hebrews 12:1-2

I Why is there evil and suffering in the world? _____.

A) Sin has broken our relationship with:

- 1) _____.
- 2) _____.
- 3) _____.
- 4) _____.

B) Love isn't a feeling; love is a _____.

II Is there an evil spirit at work in the world? _____.

III Why doesn't God put a final stop to evil and suffering?

A) In times of suffering and pain I can:

- 1) Allow it to _____ away from God, or
- 2) Choose to _____ God and trust in Him more.

B) We need to move from asking "Why?" to "What?"

When I Face Evil and Suffering, God Wants To:

I _____ me to Himself.

A) My Response: _____ on God when I am hurting.

B) Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. Psalm 23:4

C) All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is our merciful Father and the source of all comfort. He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others. When they are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us. 2 Corinthians 1:3-4

II _____ my character.

A) We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation. Romans 5:3-4

B) My Response: _____ with the evil in and around me.

C) For the Scriptures say, "If you want to enjoy life and see many happy days, keep your tongue from speaking evil and your lips from telling lies. Turn away from evil and do good. Search for peace, and work to maintain it. The eyes of the Lord watch over those who do right, and his ears are open to their prayers. But the Lord turns his face against those who do evil." 1 Peter 3:10-12

III _____ my perspective.

A) That is why we never give up. Though our bodies are dying, our spirits are being renewed every day. For our present troubles are small and won't last very long. Yet they produce for us a glory that vastly outweighs them and will last forever! So we don't look at the troubles we can see now; rather, we fix our gaze on things that cannot be seen. For the things we see now will soon be gone, but the things we cannot see will last forever. 2 Corinthians 4:16-18

B) My Response: _____ to live with eternity in mind.

C) "Anyone who listens to my teaching and follows it is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock. Though the rain comes in torrents and the floodwaters rise and the winds beat against that house, it won't collapse because it is built on bedrock. But anyone who hears my teaching and ignores it is foolish, like a person who builds a house on sand. When the rains and floods come and the winds beat against that house, it will collapse with a mighty crash." Matthew 7:24-27

NEXT STEPS:

- I will memorize Hebrews 12:1-2.
- When I face evil and suffering in life I will: Depend on God when I am hurting; Deal with the evil in and around me; & Determine to live with eternity in mind.