

A publication of
Genuine Joy Ministries

**SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:**

- Seeing someone we love go through suffering whether physical pain or mental anguish or even depression is harder on the lover than the one loved.
- We're prone to blame God for the bad things that happen.
- Yes, He could prevent all evil but He doesn't choose to do so. It would be like a parent who gave into every demand.

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The Hard Questions

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 3

MARCH 2010

Answers to Life's Hard Questions— Are You Ready?

Dear Joy...

My mother died last month of breast cancer. She was a Christian, a wonderful woman, sweet, kind, loving. She suffered a lot at the end. Why does God let this kind of thing happen to good people?

I'm so sorry for your loss. Mothers are special people and it's hard when we lose them. I won't offer you platitudes or pious sayings. If you've read any of my "Answers to Hard Questions", you know I use scripture. God's Word reveals His heart to us. He truly does love us and He loves your mother more than you do. I know, hard to imagine, but true.

Seeing someone we love go through suffering whether physical pain or mental anguish or even depression is harder on the lover than the one loved. God gives His abundant grace to those who are suffering but seldom to us who stand by and watch. However, they need His grace more than we do. He will give us peace as stated in Isaiah 26:3, "You will keep in perfect peace him whose mind is steadfast, because he trusts in you."

I watched a dear aunt of mine as she struggled to learn

to speak and even eat after a stroke. Her mind remained clear and bright but her body refused to cooperate. She spent several years in a nursing home unable to walk or even communicate well. But through all that she maintained a beautiful smile and gentle spirit. Love and kindness radiated from her eyes even when life was at its bleakest. We rejoiced when God called her home because today she's walking streets of gold, talking to whomever will listen and praising the Lord.

I'm sure I don't need to remind you that Jesus, the perfect man and God Himself went through terrible suffering here on earth. The physical pain and anguish he endured and accepted so graciously amounted to nothing compared to the trial of taking on all the sins of the world and having the Father turn His back on Him (see Mark 15:34, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"). It's hard for us to comprehend that

kind of suffering; and yet, "While we were still sinners, Christ died for us," a phrase from Romans, and He did it out of His great love.

The reason He had to suffer and die: sin. Sin came into the world when Adam and Eve sinned and we now are all born with a sinful nature. Sin, Satan and selfishness are the root cause of all suffering. With sin came toil, labor, disease, sickness, pain, suffering and all manner of distress. We're prone to blame God for the bad things that happen. We say, "God could have prevented it." Yes, He could prevent all evil but He doesn't choose to do so. It would be like a parent who gave everything a child desired to her, met every whim, gave into every demand.



The Death of Jesus

⁴⁵ At noon, darkness fell across the whole land until three o'clock. ⁴⁶ At about three o'clock, Jesus called out with a loud voice, "*Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?*" which means "My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?"

⁴⁷ Some of the bystanders misunderstood and thought he was calling for the prophet Elijah. ⁴⁸ One of them ran and filled a sponge with sour wine, holding it up to him on a reed stick so he could drink. ⁴⁹ But the rest said, "Wait! Let's see whether Elijah comes to save him."

⁵⁰ Then Jesus shouted out again, and he released his spirit. ⁵¹ At that moment the curtain in the sanctuary of the Temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, rocks split apart, ⁵² and tombs opened. The bodies of many godly men and women who had died were raised from the dead. ⁵³ They left the cemetery after Jesus' resurrection, went into the holy city of Jerusalem, and appeared to many people.

⁵⁴ The Roman officer and the other soldiers at the crucifixion were terrified by the earthquake and all that had happened. They said, "This man truly was the Son of God!"

Matthew 27:45-54

(New Living Translation)



Soon you have a little girl filled with herself, demanding and never satisfied. That's not love.

"Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of heavenly lights who does not change," from James 1:17 and all these good gifts show His great love for us. The problem comes when the "good and perfect gifts" come disguised as difficulties, trials, and failures.

In Psalms 23:1-3, it says, "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he restores my soul."

God promises you that in whatever circumstance you find yourself, it is green pastures and quiet waters—a soul-restoring place provided by the Father just for you. Yes, sometimes, it seems more like a dry, desert place with thorns and weeds surrounding you but the Lord promises that if you will accept His definition of what He's provided, it's what you need to grow your soul and bring you into a closer relationship with Him, the Lover of your soul.

We may be called to go through trying times for others as found in II Corinthians 1:3-4: "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of our compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God." We can minister to those going through a difficulty we've already experienced. Not with a, "Oh, pooh, you can get through that. I did, so you can, too." But with an arm around a shoulder and encouragement from our lips. We can point out God's faithfulness and His promises and show them His love.

One last reminder, we talk about good people but God has a different perspective on who is good. He says none of us, not you, not me, not the dearest person we know, have any goodness of our own. All our goodness and righteousness comes from God. Jesus, Himself, said to the rich young man, "Only God is good." In His great love and compassion He blesses us with His goodness so others might think of us as good. "He guides me in paths of righteousness for His name's sake."

Resources & Info

BOOKS:

Why Do Bad Things Happen to Good People? by David Arnold

WEB SITES:

[Why Do Bad Things Happen to Good People?](#)

[David Ring Video—Why Do Bad Things Happen to God's People?](#)



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HELPING YOU FIND GENUINE JOY!

Genuine Joy Ministries

A publication of Genuine Joy Ministries

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QUESTIONS????? Write us.

Sometimes you come up with really hard, tough questions that you don't have the answers to.

At times you're too embarrassed or uncomfortable to ask your friends and family... and when you are brave enough to ask the questions, even they don't always have the answers.

You don't think you have anyone that you can talk to... well now you do.

Genuine Joy Ministries is dedicated to helping you find the answers to life's hardest questions.

Just for Fun

Two elderly ladies had been friends for many decades.

Over the years they had shared all kinds of activities and adventures.

Lately, their activities had been limited to meeting a few times a week to play cards.

One day they were playing cards when one looked at the other and said, 'Now don't get mad at me....I know we've been friends for a long time.....but I just can't think of your name! I've thought and thought, but I can't remember it. Please tell me what your name is.'

Her friend glared at her. For at least three minutes she just stared and glared at her. Finally she said, 'How soon do you need to know?'

If you know someone who would be interested in or needs to see this newsletter, you can easily add their email address to our mailing list.

Just send a quick email to: info@genuinejoyministries.org



DON'T WORRY....

"When you become senile,
you won't know it."

Bill Cosby



THE HARD QUESTIONS — DO YOU HAVE ONE?