

**1. The #1 reason why bad things happen to God's saints is so that God can be glorified.**

**Another disturbing conclusion:** When bad things happen, it impugns the reputation of God temporarily—people say, “how could God allow such a thing.”

**Another disturbing conclusion:** God is not deeply affected by how we feel about any particular thing that He does!

- ✓ Part of His thought process when He does something does not include: “I wonder what they’ll think about Me if I do this?”
  - ✓ He’s willing to risk the negative conclusions of making an example of us for the sake of the positive and permanent results.
  - ✓ He does what He does because it’s right, it’s always right.
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**2. The second reason bad things happen to God's saints is that they happen for our own good, 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 12:7-10.**

- ✓ It just may take some difficult things to get you where God needs you to be; is that OK?
  - ✓ There may be no relationship between what you’ve done and what you’re currently experiencing, but God may have allowed it because you need it.
  - ✓ You need it to be a better person. You need it to be a better Christian, to be a better servant of His, that is a top priority for Him.
  - ✓ The **Apostle Paul’s situation:** Talk about a solid guy, a wonderful theologian.
    - ☑ God’s revelations to Paul were like few others have ever had the privilege of seeing or knowing, but with that privilege came the responsibility of remaining humble.
    - ☑ God’s solution for Paul’s humility was that He allowed trouble into Paul’s life to insure he didn’t exalt himself.
    - ☑ Mark it carefully: *the trouble wasn’t because Paul had done anything wrong. The trouble was allowed to keep Paul from ever doing that wrong.*
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- ✓ This is so important to see and understand as we try to figure out the “whys” of troubles and trials.
  - ✓ Paul had not transgressed, and in order to keep him from transgressing he was given a thorn in the flesh, preventative not punitive.
  - ✓ In fact, it was a messenger of Satan himself who was allowed to deliver this message of trouble into the life of Paul just like Satan was allowed to afflict Job.
  - ✓ Paul had not done anything wrong; just like Job; this wasn’t punishment for a flagrant violation of any kind.
  - ✓ **Verse 8** The televangelists say that if we pray the prayer of faith, we will get what we ask for every time.
  - ✓ If ever there was anybody who could trump God with a prayer request it was the illustrious Apostle Paul.
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## Job Lesson 7: A God You Cannot Figure Out, Part 1

- ✓ God is not beholding to anyone, not even the likes of Paul.
  - ✓ God allowed this debilitating physical trial for a reason, and it was to remain there to accomplish that purpose.
  - ✓ **Disturbing Conclusion:** God was more interested in Paul being and remaining a better person than He was interested in Paul's health and comfort.
  - ✓ Paul doubles down on this point by saying something Job's friends would have lost their self-righteous minds over: **Verse 10.**
  - ✓ Let them come. Let the trials and issues come into my life because it makes me a better person, can you say that?
  - ✓ Insults, distresses, persecutions, difficulties, for Christ's sake. That's what it's all about ladies and gentlemen, for Christ's sake not our sakes!
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### Here's some questions for all of us:

- ☑ Do we want to be used by God?
  - ☑ Do we want to be strong in Christ?
  - ☑ Do we want the power of God to flow through this temporary life that God has given us?
  - ❖ Well, it just may take trouble to get us there. Is that okay? It needs to be okay. It really does.
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### 3. "Everything happens for a reason, but sometimes the reason is that you're stupid and make bad decisions." This is third reason that bad things happen to God's saints.

- ✓ Just because there may not be a direct relationship between what we do and what happens to us doesn't mean that there never is! **John 5:13-14**
  - ✓ "Improve us, Lord, make us better." Is that your prayer?
  - ✓ When God allows trouble in our lives, the bottom line of trouble coming is to bring Him glory, that there might be a testimony.
  - ✓ IT can be a testimony of how trouble can improve God's saints or how trouble can show that God won't let His children get away with disobedience.
  - ✓ You can either be an example or He can make an example out of you!
  - ✓ Either way, it's a testimony that brings glory to God.
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### 4. The Book of Job is a book about many things. It confronts us about our opinions of God; and those opinions need constant adjustment because God is far bigger than the sum total of them.

- ✓ The Book of Job also confronts us about our opinions of ourselves. We cannot accurately assess ourselves without a correct assessment of God.
  - ✓ But what we are most confronted with in Job, based on the sheer verbiage within the book, is our *opinions of others*.
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## Job Lesson 7: A God You Cannot Figure Out, Part 1

- ✓ God, in His inspired text, spent chapter after chapter demonstrating how three guys were so wrong in their opinion of someone else.
  - ✓ They showed up for the right reason; they came to comfort a friend, but nothing they did beyond that was right.
  - ✓ They really didn't know anything about what Job had done good or bad, but according to their, supposedly, erudite reasoning it must have been scandalous.
  - ✓ Their bad theology, wrong thinking and poor treatment of a friend are what captures the majority of Job's book.
  - ✓ Do you really think that God would spend so many chapters as He does on Job's friends with all that verbiage talking about stuff that doesn't apply to you and me?
  - ✓ We can be just like Job's friends if we are not very careful.
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### There are a couple lessons we can draw from Job's friends and their big mistake.

- ✓ Be very careful if you think you've got it all or even some of it figured out.
- ✓ Think you know how it all works? You would never say it, would you? But a lot of us operate that way.
- ✓ When we think we have God all figured out we automatically think He approves of everything we believe. He loves what we love, hates what we hate, goes where we go, doesn't go where we don't want to go.
- ✓ If you're the kind of person who thinks they have most things figured out, let me tell you straight up that you are dangerous. Dangerous to others and dangerous to yourself.
- ✓ Hear me, I say this kindly: get off of your high horse before you get knocked off of it!

**1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 8:2**

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- ✓ In other words, if you think you're smart, you aren't. If you think you're grown up, you're not.
  - ✓ One of the clear indications that you don't know what you ought to know, is that *you-think-you-know-it!*
  - ✓ On the other hand, a mark of maturing Christians is that they realize they don't know nearly enough.
  - ✓ Additionally, avoid the words "always" and "never" in conversation and thinking.
  - ✓ In order for us to use those words usually requires complete knowledge of the subject to which we are referring.
  - ✓ When we say, "That never happens," we are assuming that we know every single thing about whatever "that" is.
  - ✓ In saying "always" or "never" we are stating that we know everything about a particular thing, which will never be true.
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## Job Lesson 7: A God You Cannot Figure Out, Part 1

- ✓ Omniscience is unique to God. Acting like we are God is a real dangerous place to be.
  - ✓ Instead of "always" and "never," get used to the words "sometimes" and "maybe."
  - ✓ Christians think they know more, and they actually do since knowing Christ is knowing much more than our world does.
  - ✓ But, knowing more should never be confused with knowing everything. We don't know everything because we are children, preadolescents, if you will.
  - ✓ We are referred to as the children of God, and never are we referred to as the grown-ups of God.
  - ✓ How can we, as children of God, possibly have even a medium percentage chance of the reasons why God does the things He does?
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- ✓ We have the Scriptures, and they contain the things that we need to know, but they don't contain everything that there is to know.
  - ✓ I would suggest that God is keeping a lot of stuff from us, for all the right reasons.
  - ✓ As we grow and mature as God's children, we realize the things that really matter, that we love God and are known and loved by Him. That's the most important thing.
  - ✓ That's the most important thing for kids in general; that they know they are loved and learn to love in return. They don't need to know, nor can they know much else.
  - ✓ The primary lesson from the friends of Job is we don't know much; we have to be settled and solid with that before we can learn the next lesson. The second lesson we can learn from Job's friends is: since we don't know much, we might be very wrong about the sufferings of others.
  - ✓ Under the auspices of kindness, they were instruments of Satan. **Don't be like them!**
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