

# **When All We Can Do Is Ask, “Why?”**

## **I. Introduction**

**Question: “I've got a question. It's a question that I think we all ask at some point. A very dear friend in March was declared cancer free. She beat ovarian cancer. However she passed away last week of stomach cancer, a 70-year-old, full-of- life, otherwise healthy vegetarian. Full of the Holy Spirit and intercessor. We have a pastor on staff who struggled for years within infertility. She and her husband finally conceived last year. However the pregnancy was wrought with complications even required in utero surgery for the baby. The pastor and his wife were told the baby wouldn't survive outside of the womb but he did for two weeks I think. And he passed July 21. So my question is this, even with all the people praying for these individual situations, the faith that was being exercised, the warfare, all the declarations etc. they're both gone. I feel robbed. I feel literally like the devil just up and stole my friend out of my life and the lives of those who love her. Why? Even as God promises that he will answer our prayers, why do these things happen?”**

## **II. Foundations:**

**Excellent question. And I want to honor your question by giving you an honest and compassionate answer. So the first thing we need to do is establish a foundation and then look at four reasons that God asks us at times to endure tremendous hardship and suffering. So I'm going to five answers to your question. All five of these answers are valid and true, so that, when you see real suffering, you can find that any combination of these things can contribute to the reasons why some God allowed some horrendous thing to happen.**

## **III. Extreme Suffering Still Endures on This Planet Because...**

**A. ...the Suffering in Question Serves a Larger, Eternal Purpose in God's Plan.**

***Gen. 1:22 — Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”***

**God put us on to a planet that was already designed to be a maximum**

security prison cell for Satan and all forms of darkness. God did that because, as we are being transformed into His image, we needed to have the knowledge of both good and evil. He gave us this planet and then allowed His Son to be born here as one of us so that, through His life, He could model for us what is supposed to be “the normal Christian life.”

*Rom. 8:29 — For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.*

*2 Cor. 3:18 — But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.*

*John 4:17 — As He is, so are we in this world.*

God invented churches NOT for us to gather on Sunday and celebrate our faith but as battle stations from which we would push back the darkness in our own communities and increase the Kingdom of God. We begin that by taking care of one another BUT also reaching out to the world around us in WISDOM and POWER. Our words are always to be affirmed by the power of our actions.

*Rom. 8:18-19 — This is how I work it out. The sufferings we go through in the present time are not worth putting in the scale alongside the glory that is going to be unveiled for us. 19 Yes: creation itself is on tiptoe with expectation, eagerly awaiting the moment when God’s children will be revealed.*

*John 10:37-38 — “If I do not do the works of My Father, do not believe Me; 38 but if I do them, even though you do not believe Me, believe the works, so that you may know and understand that the Father is in Me, and I in the Father.”*

*John 17:22-23 — “I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word. ... 22 The glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: 23 I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.”*

- B.** ...entire nations can come under God’s judgment because of the prevalence of witchcraft and unbelief or Biblically because of their mistreatment of Israel.

*Rom. 1:18-32 — “For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of people who suppress the truth in unrighteousness.”*

**Gen. 12:2-3 — *I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great, and you shall be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.***

**C. ...churches, drowning in the ignorance of tradition and unbelief, don't teach believers how to exercise Kingdom authority. They don't teach identity, they don't teach authority, they don't teach righteousness, and they don't teach us how to follow the Holy Spirit. All four of those concepts are essential to**

**1. We teach a three-day seminar on healing & deliverance in churches all across India. On the third day of those seminars, the students bring in everyone they know who is sick, wounded, lame, blind, deaf, injured, paralyzed, whatever, and our students minister healing and deliverance to those people according to Biblical models. Almost all of those who come to us, many of them Hindu, are healed or set free.**

**In America, in twelve years now, we've been invited to teach in four churches. Just four. And the reason is that these churches — good people, mind you, with well-meaning pastors — have inherited a culture where church is a business and there are two things that threaten that business: empowering your flock and releasing the Holy Spirit. Both of those things are a threat to most churches. They just don't know any better, and they don't want to learn.**

**What did Jesus tell His disciples, "*As you go, preach, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.' 8 Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons.*" But what do our churches say? "God doesn't do that kind of thing any more."**

**D. ...believers are not taught and don't understand the power of their own words.**

**When God made Adam and Eve, He said, "Let us make man in our image and after our likeness, and let us give them dominion...over all the Earth." We have to understand that the means by which we exercise that divine authority is with our lips, our lungs, our voice. The things we speak can bring us either sickness and tragedy or health and wellbeing.**

**Prov. 18:21 — "*Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit.*"**

**Prov. 12:18 (NASB) — “There is one who speaks rashly like the thrusts of a sword, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.”**

**Matt. 15:18 — “Those things which proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and they defile a man.”**

**Common sayings that are harmful to us or family members:**

**“I hate myself!”**

**“I’m always so stupid!”**

**“Every time we gather for Christmas, somehow I get sick.”**

**“I’ll probably die of cancer because cancer runs in my family.”**

**“She’s a liar; that’s just who she is.”**

**“My name is Joe Blow, and I am an alcoholic.”**

**“This boy? Oh my gosh, he’s so bad.”**

**“I’ll never grow up and be like my dad!”**

**E. ...willful disobedience will provoke God to remove His protection from you in order to draw you to repentance.**

**1 Cor 5:4-5 (NASB) — “In the name of our Lord Jesus, when you are assembled, and I with you in spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus, I have decided to turn such a person over to Satan for the destruction of his body, so that his spirit may be saved on the day of the Lord.”**

**What does that look like for a believer? (“I hate God. I’m going to be my own God for a while.”)**

#### **IV. Summary:**

**Extreme Suffering Still Endures on This Planet Because...**

- 1) ... that suffering serves a larger eternal purpose in God’s plan.**
- 2) ... we live in a nation which is rejecting God and abandoning Israel.**
- 3) ... churches, drowning in tradition and religion, don’t teach us how to exercise the dominion God has given us.**
- 4) ... because we don’t understand the power of our spoken words and, in ignorance, speak curses over ourselves and others.**
- 5) ... willful disobedience can provoke God to remove His protection over us in order to bring us to repentance.**