

Unanswered: Why Do Bad Things Happen to Good People?
Pastor Johnson Bowie
May 5-6, 2018

Habakkuk 1:2-4, 13 NIV

How long, Lord, must I call for help, but you do not listen? Or cry out to you, "Violence!" but you do not save? Why do you make me look at injustice? Why do you tolerate wrongdoing? Destruction and violence are before me; there is strife, and conflict abounds. Therefore the law is paralyzed, and justice never prevails. The wicked hem in the righteous, so that justice is perverted... Your eyes are too pure to look on evil; you cannot tolerate wrongdoing. Why then do you tolerate the treacherous? Why are you silent while the wicked swallow up those more righteous than themselves?

Why Do Bad Things Happen to Good People?

1. They don't.

Mark 10:17-18 NIV

As Jesus started on his way, a man ran up to him and fell on his knees before him. "GOOD teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" "Why do you call me GOOD?" Jesus answered. "No one is GOOD—except God alone."

Romans 3:10-12 NLT

No one is righteous—not even one. No one is truly wise; no one is seeking God. All have turned away; all have become useless. No one does good, not a single one.

"Pain insists upon being attended to. God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our conscience, but shouts in our pains. It is his megaphone to rouse a deaf world." — C.S. Lewis

2. We live in a fallen world.

2a. We live in a fallen world where SIN BROKE THE WORLD.

Romans 8:20-22 NLT

Against its will, all creation was subjected to God's curse. But with eager hope, the creation looks forward to the day when it will join God's children in glorious freedom from death and decay. For we know that all creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time.

2b. We live in a fallen world where PEOPLE USE FREE WILL FOR EVIL.

2c. We live in a fallen world where WE HAVE AN ENEMY.

Ephesians 6:12 NLT

For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.

Our Response to Bad Things Happening to Good People:

1. Pray in FAITH and COMFORT people for GOD'S GLORY.

Matthew 17:20 NIV

"Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you."

2 Corinthians 1:3-4 NIV

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of 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 receive from God.

2. Trust God in the mystery.

Habakkuk 3:2 NIV

Lord, I have heard of your fame; I stand in awe of your deeds, Lord. Repeat them in our day, in our time make them known.