

WHAT THE BIBLE DOESN'T SAY

“Everything Happens For A Reason”

Rom 8:28

“And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.” KJV

Introduction:

An artist had spent years perfecting her skills as an abstract painter using watercolor as her medium, she discovered new and innovative techniques for painting nature. She finally got a huge opportunity to display her life's work in a renowned art studio. Unfortunately, the night before the showing the studio burnt down, and her life's work was turned into ashes. Attempting to comfort the grieving artist, a close friend whispered, “Not to worry, everything happens for a reason.”

Questions: What do you think the artist's friend was trying to say? Had the art show been a success, resulting in the artist becoming rich and famous, do you think this friend would have made this same statement?

I suppose that it easy to receive that saying when things work out for the better. For example, if you were to fall and injure your ankle but during the emergency room visit the doctor notices a strange bulge on your other leg that turns out to be a dangerous blood clot and performs an emergency procedure that saves your life – then “everything happens for a reason” would seem befitting. This would not be the case when a mother-to-be loses twins due to an unexplained miscarriage.

Perhaps people make this statement because they are attempting to make sense of life's very complicated events. But this statement does not agree with Apostle Paul's message in **Romans 8:28**.

THE LESSON

Standing alone the saying: “Everything happens for a reason” – is similar to statements like: “It was all part of God's plan” or “This must be the way God intended it.” This would imply that God has a reason for every single car accident, mass murder, and deadly disease.

This type of concept is rooted in two primary Christian beliefs. One is the “providence of God” and the other is the “sovereignty of God.” Providence of God means that God guides and controls everything that happens everywhere and at all times. In fact, the word providence means that God sees things before they happen. The term “sovereignty of God” means that

God has the wisdom, power, and authority to do anything that He chooses. When we combine God's providence with God's sovereignty, one can arrive at the belief that God has the power and knowledge to prevent anything that He wants to prevent. So many people would come to understand that whatever happens God has to at least allow it. Right?

Questions: Do we have any "say" or input in things that happen to us?

See Deut. 30: 15 - 19 and Joshua 24:15. Is God under any obligation to explain his reasons and rationales for his actions to us? See **Duet: 29:29** God allows people to make choices and those choices can have profound effects on our lives.

Questions: So then, does God allow things to happen that He does not directly cause? For instance, did God start the fire that the three Hebrew boys were thrown into? Is God causing global warming? One could deduce that the fact that sin exists at all proves that not all things come about by a direct action of God who is holy and completely without sin.

In the Deut. 30: 15 – 19, God provides the Israelites with clear choices and explains the benefits and consequences of each choice. We are free to make choices but God holds us responsible for the outcomes of those choices. We are free to choose our actions but we cannot choose our consequences. Do you agree? **See Matt. 12: 36 – 37 Rom. 14:6, 2 Cor. 5:10**

JUST A LITTLE DEEPER

In **Romans 8:28**, Apostle Paul addresses this matter of God's providence and sovereignty.

"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose." KJV

When Paul states that "all things are working together for our good" – "our good" doesn't necessarily mean what we think is best for us. Furthermore, remember that "things" are NOT working- it is God that is actively working in our behalf to accomplish his purpose.

See Gen. 50:20 and Eph 1:11

QUESTIONS: How does **Gen. 50:20** show God "working" things for good? According to **Eph 1:11** what or who determines what is "good" for us?

IN SUMMATION

Our world has been negatively affected in countless ways because of the introduction of sin into the world. So, it is not so much that "everything happens for a reason" as where there is no light, we call that condition darkness, and where there is no health remaining, we call that condition sickness- and where God's presence is removed, we call that condition evil. When we fail to choose God's will and his way, – then we will experience the effects of God's absence.