

## **What makes us Question God over life happenings?**

We may have an idea about who God is and what he can do but what do we really know? What stereotype (*a widely held but fixed and oversimplified image or idea of a particular type of person or thing.*) of God do you have? Is he like a holier than thou being who just can't wait to punish us? Is he so loving and forgiving he lets us get by with murder because he can't stand to punish us?

A man in a hot air balloon realized he was lost so he lowered his altitude and he saw a woman below. He lowered his altitude a bit more and called out. Excuse me, can you help me? I promised a friend I would meet him an hour ago, but I have no idea where I am.

The woman said, you are in a hot air balloon about 30 feet above ground. You're about 41 degrees north latitude and about 59 to 60 degrees west longitude. You must be an engineer shouted the balloonist. Wow, I am, how did you know? Well, everything you told me is technically correct yet I have no idea what to make of the information you just gave me. The fact is, I am still lost. Frankly, you have not been much help at all and all you have done is delayed my trip.

The woman responded, you must be in management. I am, said the man, how did you know? Well said the woman, you don't know where you are or where you are going. You have risen to where you are due to a large quantity of hot air. You made a promise you have no idea how to keep and you expect people beneath you to solve your problems. The fact is you are in the exact same position you were in when we met but now somehow you have managed to make it my fault.

## **What we know about God (our picture or view) and His ways determines how we react to our loss.**

**Slide 4&5.** [Job 1:1, 14-21 KJV] 1 There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name [was] Job; and that man was perfect and upright, and one that feared God, and eschewed evil. ... 14 And there came a messenger unto Job, and said, The oxen were plowing, and the asses feeding beside them: 15 And the Sabeans fell [upon them], and took them away; yea, they have slain the servants with the edge of the sword; and I only am escaped alone to tell thee. 16 While he [was] yet speaking, there came also another, and said, The fire of God is fallen from heaven, and hath burned up the sheep, and the servants, and consumed them; and I only am escaped alone to tell thee. 17 While he [was] yet speaking, there came also another, and said, The Chaldeans made out three bands, and fell upon the camels, and have carried them away, yea, and slain the servants with the edge of the sword; and I only am escaped alone to tell thee. 18 While he [was] yet speaking, there came also another, and said, Thy sons and thy daughters [were] eating and drinking wine in their eldest brother's house: 19 And, behold, there came a great wind from the wilderness, and smote the four corners of the house, and it fell upon the young men, and they are dead; and I only am escaped alone to tell thee. 20 Then Job arose, and rent his mantle, and shaved his head, and fell down upon the ground, and worshipped, 21 And said, Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD.

## **Job made reached his conclusion about God's Awesomeness before that terrible day.**

**Verse 21 is not something he just came up with.**

**We know Satan was behind all the bad things that happened to Job. He used the Sabeans, Fire from heaven, the Chaldeans, a great wind from the wilderness. (People and Nature)**

**Slide 6. How do you Seek the Truth? Three main avenues of Decision-Making: (Why does God allow bad things to happen to us?)**

**Slide 6. Mind or rational Conclusions** - are rational and clinical and usually based on the facts presented. The mind plans and looks ahead, weighs up the pros and cons then follows the path which makes the most logical sense.

**Slide 6. Emotional or fleshly heart Conclusions** - decisions based on emotion, you feel a choice or decision. (Oklahoma is number 5 on discourteous decisions while driving. Arizona number 1, Arkansas number 23).

**Slide 6. Using your mind and your emotions to arrive at a conclusion concerning why bad things happen, will not give you the best answer. Wrong conclusion.**

**Slide 7. God's Ways Cannot Be Reached by Human Wisdom.**

[Isa 55:9 KJV] 9 For [as] the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.

**Slide 8. Spiritual heart conclusions** – Conclusions reached primarily on holy fear of God. There are basically two parts to this decision-making to consider. Our understanding of God's nature and will and realizing God is Sovereign over all humanity and heaven including himself.

**Reaching the Best Understanding of Why Questions Starts with Understanding God's Sovereignty**

**Slide 9. Sovereign:** Our Personal will is a freedom God gives us. God is sovereign having supreme authority and rule. His sovereignty includes his right to choose according to his own nature and will. Therefore, he is able to give humans and angels true free will. He makes choices based on his nature and will. God gives us the freedom to make our own choices without him interfering. (He hurts over some of our decisions.)

**Slide 10. Important to know. (Do you understand God's nature and his will?) He will do what he says He will do.**

[Heb 13:5 KJV] 5 [Let your] conversation [be] without covetousness; [and be] content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.

# Understanding God's Omniscience.

## Example: All Humanity has an appointment with Death and Judgment.

We all have an appointment we must keep. We can't change it or stop it.

[Psa 116:15 KJV] 15 Precious in the sight of the LORD [is] the death of his saints.

To us, death of a loved one is a separation that matters. Anyone who's faced death or the loss of a loved one you know it's one of the most unnatural things you can experience. Death permanently alters your life and has left many with their faith in shambles.

## Do you know God Knows All? I mean, Do you Really Know God?

**Slide 11.** [Jer 29:13 KJV] 13 And ye shall seek me, and find [me], when ye shall search for me with all your heart.

**Earlier we said, He Will Never Leave Us or Forsake Us.**

## David wondered where God was many times.

**Slide 12.** [Psa 13:1-3 KJV] 1 [[To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David.]] How long wilt thou forget me, O LORD? for ever? how long wilt thou hide thy face from me? 2 How long shall I take counsel in my soul, [having] sorrow in my heart daily? how long shall mine enemy be exalted over me? 3 Consider [and] hear me, O LORD my God: lighten mine eyes, lest I sleep the [sleep of] death;

## **Slide 13. The Lord God of Heaven's Armies didn't stop these**

### **David from Committing Adultery and Murder.**

**Slide 14** [2Sa 12:9 KJV] 9 Wherefore hast thou despised the commandment of the LORD, to do evil in his sight? thou hast killed Uriah the Hittite with the sword, and hast taken his wife [to be] thy wife, and hast slain him with the sword of the children of Ammon.

### **Judas from hanging himself. On more than one occasion Jesus told him he knew what he was going to do. (Betrayal)**

**Slide 15.** [Mat 27:4-5 KJV] 4 Saying, I have sinned in that I have betrayed the innocent blood. And they said, What [is that] to us? see thou [to that]. 5 And he cast down the pieces of silver in the temple, and departed, and went and hanged himself.

God hurts over things like this happening to Us but it was our choice, not His. (His sovereignty)

### **Slide 16. He didn't stop Charles Templeton from quitting preaching after his faith failed through human conclusions**

**about God. He was part of the dynamic duo (Him and Billy Graham) of Evangelists in the 1940s for a new ministry Campus Crusades for Christ.**

**He began to doubt the Bible and teachings of the church as his earthly education grew at Princeton University.**

**He quit evangelism and then quite ministry all together and later he wrote a book: Farewell to God, my reasons for rejecting the Christian faith in 1996. His close friend Billy Graham also was tempted to doubt.**

**Our grief should drive us towards God not away from Him. Often our pain and grief drives us away.**

### **Back to More on God's Sovereignty and Omniscience (Example)**

**Slide 17.** [Heb 9:27 KJV] 27 And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:

A writer by the name of Father Paul says, God is omniscient, i.e. "all knowing," and we are not. So for God the answer is that he DOES indeed "know" precisely the day, hour and minute that each of us will die. And there is nothing that we can do to change or alter the time and circumstances that God "knows" concerning our death. If he grants us more time or shortens the time, he will still be the only one that knows our appointed time.

**Slide 18.** [Ecc 7:17 KJV] 17 Be not over much wicked, neither be thou foolish: why shouldest thou die before thy time?

A man from Spiro about to lose the love of his life put the barrel of a shotgun in his mouth and pulled the trigger. He survived. Why?

A young preacher with a young family died of cancer. Why?

### **So Why does God allow bad things to happen to Us?**

**Slide 18.** [Jas 1:13 KJV] 13 Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man:

### **God's Sovereignty Allowed Job to be Tested. God knew Job would Pass the tests (Omniscience).**

What we know about God helps us with an answer to this question but Only God can answer this question. Do you trust Him? Here is what we do know. Don't mistake God's Sovereignty for judgment. God's Sovereignty allowed Job to be Tested. He knew Job would pass.

God will punish sin and send consequences to us for our sin.

## **Moses Said:**

[Deu 3:24 KJV] 24 O Lord GOD, thou hast begun to shew thy servant thy greatness, and thy mighty hand: for what God [is there] in heaven or in earth, that can do according to thy works, and according to thy might?

## **Some things happen to us and we have done nothing to deserve it.**

The More we know about God's ways and who God is, the stronger our trust in him becomes stronger.

**Slide 19** . [Job 42:2-3, 5-6 KJV] 2 I know that thou canst do every [thing], and [that] no thought can be withholden from thee. 3 Who [is] he that hideth counsel without knowledge? therefore have I uttered that I understood not; things too wonderful for me, which I knew not. ... 5 I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear: but now mine eye seeth thee. 6 Wherefore I abhor [myself], and repent in dust and ashes.