



## Why Bad Things?

7/25/21

“Love will fight for you, but it will not fight you. Love doesn’t manipulate you with fear and intimidation and control. And it doesn’t back you into a corner so you have nowhere else to go because love, it doesn’t trap you. Love frees you because it honors your freedom.”

- Lacey Sturm (Flyleaf)

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(This is an excerpt from something I wrote earlier this year...)

What is important for us to realize is that there is a subtle difference between identifying evil and blaming evil...

One accepts responsibility for being an agent of good in the face of evil, the other abdicates all responsibility.

One “treads on the lion and the adder” (Psalm 91), the other feeds and empowers the lion and the adder.

I truly believe we are to identify evil and be aware that there is a great battle of good versus evil. I also know that, as Christians, evil has no power over us because we are children of the the One, True, Almighty King. God’s Word is filled with the reminders of that fact.

Too many Christians feed and empower evil by blaming. Satan is not God. He is not omnipotent, omnipresent, and/or omniscient. God alone is all those things. Satan has already lost, but too many Christians act powerless against evil...so we blame. Evil is personified in this world when people surrender to it. We as the church have had a role to play in the state of society and culture today. We have not always been people of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. We, as the church, need to pay more attention to ourselves and how we are living as agents of Christ in this dark world.

We give evil too much credit and, thereby, fuel and empower evil.

God calls us to confront it and trample it, in the power of the Holy Spirit (especially the evil in our own hearts).

- Brent Eliason (April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021)

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If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

- 2 Chronicles 7:14



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### WHY DO BAD THINGS HAPPEN TO GOD’S PEOPLE?

**\*Who is/are “God’s people”?**

Isaiah 45:22 & 1 Timothy 2:1-6

**#1 – God = \_\_\_\_\_**

1 John 4:7-8, 16

**#2 – With God comes \_\_\_\_\_**

Romans 8:1-2 & 2 Corinthians 3:17

God is the ultimate \_\_\_\_\_

**#3 – True \_\_\_\_\_ offers \_\_\_\_\_**

We cannot “trap” God...

**\*So... Why do bad things happen?**

(cause & effect of \_\_\_\_\_)

When people choose poorly...

Romans 12:1-2

John 15:1-17

**Live well. Love, Follow, & Obey God.**

**Love others so much that they choose to Love, Follow, & Obey...**