

WHY DOES GOD ~~CAUSE~~ ALLOW **BAD THINGS** TO HAPPEN TO ME, MY FAMILY AND FRIENDS?

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OBJECTIVE: ALTHOUGH SOMEWHAT CONTROVERSIAL,
THIS ARTICLE IS TO CLEAR THE AIR ONCE AND FOR ALL

1. INTRODUCTION

~~I quick article to as answer this questi...~~

No, this cannot be a quick article, because there are too many issues to discuss and take into consideration!

There is an Afrikaans word called “*menslik*” which best describes the fact that we all experience human emotions that include fear, disappointment, anger, sadness, etc... Even when Jesus became human, He experienced similar emotions:

“*My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death*” - **Mark 14:34**, where Jesus asked God three times for the cup to be taken away from him if there was any other way not to die for our sins.

“*Being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground.*” - **Luke 22:44**, so Jesus also experienced stress/fear.

The above means that it is 101% natural to experience human emotions when things go wrong.

So does God **cause** bad things to happen or at least **allow** bad things to happen without intervening?

We are amidst a War between Russia and Ukraine with thousands of people dying, injured and suffering on both sides, so the question would obviously pop-up: “***Where is God and why does God allow this to happen***”?.

Note that when I refer to “man” or “person” in this article, it also means woman.

2. A STILL BORN CHILD

So your child was still born and you want answers!

If we tackle this topic so early on in this article, the response might be a huge flop, so the above heading is posed again near the end of this article and it should then be much easier to comprehend...

3. LAYOUT

Ok, let us break this article up into the following sections:

Section A) – What causes problems in the first place (in other words, what are the real reasons (root causes) why we experience problems in life)

Section B) - Problems are actually inevitable (in other words, you cannot avoid many of them)

Section C) - Man's inappropriate response to problems (in other words, how man usually responds to problems)

Section D) – Why all problems on earth are actually not that bad (in other words, even the worst problems on earth namely death, is not that bad...)

Section E) – What we can or should do (in other words, how we can limit problems from happening in the first place and/or how to manage our problems better)

Section F) – The importance of seeing the Bigger Picture (in other words, if you step back and look at the bigger picture, all the preceding sections and all problems on earth become superficial).

Section G) – Closing remarks



SECCION A

WHAT CAUSES PROBLEMS IN THE FIRST PLACE?

Let us look at some reasons why we experience problems in our lives!

4. “THEY” ARE PHYSICALLY VERY WEAK , BUT MENTALLY VERY STRONG

What is actually very weak (physically), but influences our entire lives (mentally)?

The answer is the 5 things that basically run our lives, namely our **5 senses**.

A married person **sees** a beautiful woman/man that causes them to commit adultery or someone sees a sports car causing them to act unethically to try and obtain money for the things they desire and guess what, consequences (problems) are guaranteed.

We **feel** with our flesh and this could cause people to live promiscuously. Drugs make people feel “better” and consequences (problems) are guaranteed.

We **smell** food and this cause many to consume unhealthy food with consequences (problems) over the long term.

We **taste** junk food and alcohol that cause some people to overdo things resulting in consequences (problems) over the long run.

We **hear** things we are not supposed to hear such as how to obtain money unethically and this brings people in trouble or we start gossiping causing harm.

Although not considered a sense, **speech** also causes many problems! E.g. spreading false rumours, swearing, picking fights, lying and GBV all cause problems for people and eventually for the person causing it as well.

Why are our 5 senses “weak”? I have an article covering this in more detail, but briefly:

Sight - We only see a fraction of the electromagnetic spectrum and many animals see better than us in daylight and/or at night.

Feel - Some snakes and insects can feel the tiniest vibrations that us humans are not even closely aware off.

Smell - Many animals like dogs and cats can smell the most minute particles.

Taste - There are animals with much better taste buds than what we can imagine like cows.

Hear - Many animals can hear much better than us, so yes, our 5 senses are very weak, yet they run and ruin many lives... **The weakness of the flesh.**



Our 5 senses create our reality and as a result, we are impacted by the Body, instead of via our soul.

¹⁶ This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.

¹⁷ For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.

Galatians 5:16-17

The Bible is filled with verses about the weakness of the flesh and how we should rather focus on the Soul. It is the weakness of the flesh that often brings problems.

BOTTOM LINE: Our 5 senses cause problems, they corrupt our Souls and makes us weak Christians...

5. TOO MUCH OR TOO LITTLE

This one is also linked to the weakness of the flesh as well as our lack of “self-control”!

“For God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control”. 2 Timothy 1:7

What happens when you drink too much?
What happens when you eat too little?
Where is the self-control?



So you WILL get tempted (by your 5 senses) to act on things and situations and this may even include (over or under) indulging in food and drink causing problems, but there is Hope, because:

“^{d3} No temptation[a] has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted[b] beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted,[c] he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it”. - 1 Corinthians 10:13

Yes, YOU can control it, but it takes “self-control”.

Always remain vigilant and do not become too arrogant about your abilities and “self-control” abilities:

“^{d2} So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don’t fall!” - 1 Corinthians 10:12

As you can easily fall.

So what does the bible say about maintaining a balance?

“^{d8} Do not over-indulge in wine-a thing in which excess is so easy” - Ephesians 5: 18

and

“^{d5} When you discover something sweet, don’t overindulge and eat more than you need, for excess in anything can make you sick of even a good thing” - Proverbs 25:16

Like:



It is not good to eat much honey, - Jesaja 40: 30 to 35

So what must you do? Maintain a balance and endure temptations...! (self-control).

“Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him”. - James 1:12

One more:

“For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself. That is why many of you are weak and ill, and some have died” - 1 Corinthians 11:29-30

BOTTOM LINE: “Self-control” is critical!

You will be tempted with stuff that can cause you harm due to our 5 senses, but you have the ability to control it. It is also key to maintain a balance in life to limit (negative) consequences.

6. FREE WILL = FREE CHOICES

What makes it so difficult to maintain a balance and endure temptations? It is because we have “Free Will”. Man has Free Will to do what man wants (in most countries), but unfortunately it seems as if man uses this “free will” to mess things up, even after God warned us about it:

*“You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love”. **Galatians 5:13***

Guard against that “free will”:

*“Act as free men, and do not use your freedom as a covering for evil, but use it as bondslaves of God”. **1 Peter 2:16***

A child, especially a teenager, wants **full free** will, but they need guidance, so what happens when parents keep on intervening to give guidance? They rebel! Let me repeat, they “REBEL”! They do not like to be micro managed, actually nobody likes it and that is one of the reasons why **God is not “sitting in the air on a chair”**, monitoring and directing everybody. He also does not want us to rebel against Him and wants us to make our own free choices, including to choose Him, see below:

*“Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me”. **Revelation 3:20***

So God will not force himself onto us, He is waiting on us at the door. To answer Him, He is a prayer away! If you experiencing hardship/problems, you can always ask God’s help, but there are terms and conditions attached which will be discussed later on.

What about the Opposite? What do I mean with this? Not only do “good” people have “Free Will”, but “bad” people as well. This means that a bad person can also decide to rape, murder, or steal. When they do so, it WILL negative impact “good” and/or “bad” persons. So if someone does something bad to you, that person used their **free will** to do so, because God gave Free Will to all!

BOTTOM LINE: We all have been given Free Will, but how many of us misuse that and over indulge or get tempted by evil due to our “freedom” that we are unable to always control?. ...

7. ARROGANCE

God is Love, but if there is one thing that God almost “Hates”, then it is Arrogance! There are so many verses on this, that this is actually an article on its own! Why does God despise Arrogance? Well, here are two possible reasons:

- 1) You start believing you are invincible and do not need God; and
- 2) You believe you are better than others around you (those that God also created*).

I know of many many arrogant people, including famous people who have been humbled by a tragic incident! Although God did not cause it, He may not have interfered to prevent it:

“The proud look of man will be abased. And the loftiness of man will be humbled, and the Lord alone will be exalted in that day” - Isaiah 2:11

Whether you famous or not, yet arrogant, take note that you are at risk of being humbled:

“He humbled you, causing you to hunger and then feeding you with manna, which neither you nor your ancestors had known, to teach you that man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord” - Deuteronomy 8:3

The more arrogant you are, the worst it is for you:

“So the common man will be humbled and the man of importance abased, the eyes of the proud also will be abased” - Isaiah 5:15

Not only is **Arrogance** covered many time in the bible, but the opposite (**Humility**) as well and here are a few more verses to “chew” on:

<p><i>But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, “God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble.” : James 4:6</i></p>	<p><i>For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted. Luke 14: 11</i></p>	<p><i>The reward for humility and fear of the Lord is riches and honor and life. Proverbs 22:4</i></p>
<p><i>Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you... 1 Peter 5:6</i></p>	<p><i>For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. Romans 12:3</i></p>	<p><i>Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Colossians 3:12</i></p>
<p><i>When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with the humble is wisdom. Proverbs 11:12</i></p>	<p><i>Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.” 1 Peter 5:5</i></p>	<p><i>Thus says the Lord: “Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches, Jeremiah 9:23</i></p>

“Thus I will punish the world for its evil and the wicked for their iniquity; I will also put an end to the arrogance of the proud and abase the haughtiness of the ruthless” - Isaiah 13:11

Yes, God is serious about this topic:

“Behold, I am against you, O arrogant one,” Declares the Lord God of hosts, “For your day has come” - Jeremiah 50:31-32

So if you “have it all” and you are Arrogant as well, then chances are good that you will soon be humbled...

REALITY SHOWS:

What do many Reality Shows have in common? Many of them are focussed on either the superrich or on those with promiscuous lifestyles, because the issues/problems and drama they experience, keeps viewers coming back for more. They almost become puppets and in turn are enticed with money and/or more opportunity to be promiscuous (“let the fun commence”).

However, often, things start falling apart due to cheating (that promiscuous fun), fraud, corruption, tax evasion (to maintain that expensive life style), diseases (due to promiscuous fun or an unhealthy lifestyle of booze and junk food), etc...

Who is to blame?

NOT GOD!

So if things go wrong and God does not step in to solve your man-made problems, it may be to give you a wake-up call, so do not start blaming God for your actions and related problems, YOU caused it:

“Blessed is the one whom God corrects, so do not despise the discipline of the Almighty”.- Job 5:17

*

Did you notice the red * above? It is in the sentence “*those that God also created**”. So did God cause your father and mother to meet and have YOU, or did they meet via Free Will? I do not have the real answer, but I believe that God must allow Free Will to some extent and that is why some people often choose the wrong partner! So what if this Free Will choice has been going on for generations and along the line someone married a close family member or married someone that became a drug addict or with a genetic defect? That could mean that their (weak) genes may have resulted in a child being negatively impacted. Could that child help it? That child might be you!

What if the Free Will DNA mix of a father and a mother results in a very good mix, positively impacting a child? Could that child help it? Can that child have any reason to become arrogant about it if he/she had nothing to do with it? Is that the reason why God does not like people becoming arrogant if they good at things, smart, attractive, etc...? It was all as a result of Free Will! I have written an article about this called “*Free Will, your DNA and Prayer*” that expands on this.



BOTTOM LINE: So you have no reason to become arrogant about anything, remain humble no matter what, as no matter how rich, clever, attractive or talented you are, your circumstances can change in a wink. It is clear that God does NOT like arrogance and if you arrogant, you will be at risk.

8. SO WHO IS REALLY TO BLAME...

*Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God," for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death. **James 1:13-15***

God originally planned that mankind have a happy stress and sin free life in the Garden of Eden and told man/woman what to do and what not to do, but if only... If only they kept to the "rules/guidance", but no, man messed up and sin was introduced to the world. Man introduced sin almost immediately after being created. This initial sin has resulted in problems for us all (man basically allowed the **Devil** in).

Man caused bad things to happen to man (and to nature)!

God is NOT to blame:

*"But if our unrighteousness serves to show the righteousness of God, what shall we say? That God is unrighteous to inflict wrath on us? (I speak in a human way.) By no means! For then how could God judge the world?" - **Romans 3:5-6***

It is clear that **humans cause their own problems**, even things referred to as "Acts of God" are probably indirectly due to man! (e.g. Man is causing global warming that results in changes in the weather with floods or draughts. It should actually not be called "Acts of God", but "Acts of Nature" or better still, "**Acts of Man**" or "**Indirect Acts of Man**"...) and those acts by man have **Consequences**, as clearly stated:

"Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap" -

Galatians 6:7

For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world.

1 John 2:16

Apart from Man, who else "stirs" and is out to tempt man to cause bad things to happen?

"13 When the devil had finished all this tempting, he left him until an opportune time"
Luke 4:13



And:



“Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour”

1 Peter 5:8

BOTTOM LINE: It is not God that causes bad things, almost all things are caused directly/indirectly by Man. God can however intervene and does (in some cases), but He (also) has Free Will and (always) has a Bigger Strategy/Plan. Your Prayer may however play a role and God may intervene and help or He may not, but if not, there is a reason (e.g. your illness or a family death may result in awareness being raised regarding that illness and in turn “save” many subsequent lives).



SECTION B

PROBLEMS ARE ACTUALLY INEVITABLE



9. IT HAS TO HAPPEN

*There is a time for everything,
and a season for every activity under heaven:
a time to be born and a time to die,
a time to plant and a time to uproot,
a time to kill and a time to heal,
a time to tear down and a time to build,
a time to weep and a time to laugh,
a time to mourn and a time to dance,
a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them,
a time to embrace and a time to refrain,
a time to search and a time to give up,
a time to keep and a time to throw away,
a time to tear and a time to mend,
a time to be silent and a time to speak,
a time to love and a time to hate,
a time for war and a time for peace.*

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

When someone close to you dies, we are all sad, stressed up and ask WHY or at least “WHY NOW”? Well, then when, as it must happen at some stage? Do you want your friends and family to become 300 years old and be permanently bedridden on a drip, constantly suffering?

Proximo from the Gladiator seems negative here, but he is actually realistic:

“Ultimately, we are all dead men. Sadly we cannot choose how but we can decide how we meet that end in order that we are remembered as men.” – Proximo

“We are nothing but dust and shadows. Dust and shadows!” – Proximo

“Death smiles on us all. All a man can do is smile back.” – Marcus Aurelius

BOTTOM LINE: There is a time for EVERYTHING, even for bad things!

10. WARE AND TARE

10.1 Things Break!

Yes, it is called “ware and tare”.

What does this mean? You WILL experience problems!

The more movement and heat there is in or around your assets/devices, the bigger the chance that they will eventually pack-up/break, even electronic devices with less moving parts.

10.2 Many things are designed (by man) to last (on purpose) a specific time only:

When you buy that new washing machine, HiFi or toaster, know that it is not forever and you will have to replace it one day. Even your car can breakdown and the less it is maintained, the bigger the chance that it will breakdown someday. If it breaks down outside your driveway, the impact is not that great, but what if it breaks down on a lonely road at night miles and miles from anything with no cell phone reception? Will you blame God less if your car breaks down outside your driveway and blame God more if it breaks down on that lonely road? The breakdown of your car is probably 80% your fault and 20% the manufacturer’s fault, but the fault remains with humans.

Even microchips, gears and other parts were planned and developed by man and often they are designed to last only an x period of time, so that us humans must go back for an expensive service or replacement part. How often does an item break just outside its guarantee period? (was this designed on purpose?. How often does your cell phone battery degrade soon after your contract has expired? Worst still, the new phones have been “designed” so that their battery cannot be opened and replaced by Tom, Dick or Harry).

10.3 Things are designed (by man) for making money on purpose

Cars have computers to tell you when it is time for a service and only the garage can switch off that irritating light or alarm bell that goes off from time to time.

Car parts have been designed to be replaced as an overall unit instead of the small part that is actually faulty. A cheap bearing brakes, but the unit is sealed so you have to replace the entire unit!

Many parts are now made of plastic not only to save costs, but to last a limited period of time only, so people are forced to replace the units more often (e.g. I notice some new cars have water-pumps made of plastic which needs to work hard at high heat...).



Man's greed often causes others to suffer! Even the war in Ukraine is driven by resource and real estate greed and how many people die, lose all their belongings or need to run to a new country with nothing, thus suffer because of this greed? It is NOT God, but man that causes it.

BOTTOM LINE: Most things do not last forever! Worst still, Man who manufactures goods, do not make them to last forever, mostly on purpose! If you travel in a car, it could breakdown or your breaks can fail at high speed... So problems you experience could be caused by ware & tare which in turn is caused by man's greed!

11. LET US DISCUSS “ACCIDENTS”

We call them “accidents”, but how many are really accidental? Only “freak accidents” are actually accidents, or are they?

If someone crashes into you, it is called an accident, but what if that someone was texting on their phone and did not concentrate on the road? Would that still be classified as an “accident”? The root cause is the other person messing up, so it is actually more “on purpose”.

What if a driver’s tire burst and they lost control and crashed into you! The chances are great that that driver either did not properly inflate the tyres or did not regularly rotate their tyres or should have replaced it due to ware and tare.

If someone skipped a Red Robot or consumed too much alcohol and caused an “accident”, it is that person that caused it and it is technically NOT an “accident”!

A freak accident might be an animal crossing the road and you crash into it, but what if it was running away from a fire that someone (man) started? You should be familiar with the butterfly effect? Yes, many (most) accidents or even “freak accidents” are probably directly or indirectly caused by man.

Even a tree falling on a house may be due too much rain which is due to changes in weather patterns which is due to global warming which is due to... yes, due to man’s greed, a butterfly effect.

BOTTOM LINE: Accidents do happen, but most may not be by accident, but by or due to man



SECTION C

MANS' INAPPROPRIATE RESPONSE TO PROBLEMS/ISSUES

12. WHY ME?

I have also posed that question in my life! (why did it happen to me?)

Did you cause the problem yourself or someone close to you?

It is often only YOU to blame!

You may over indulged in food or alcohol over a long period of time and this has its consequences in the long run.

If you do not eat healthy, you may become ill (over time). Health problems do not happen overnight, but usually over time (so you have been eating wrong over a long period).

If you did not work well with your money, you might land up in debt! If you did not provide for your pension, you might suffer one day. If you did not take out insurance and your stuff gets stolen, you going to suffer the consequences. If you decided to not take out medical aid and rather spend your money on other things and you become very ill, you have problems.

Your “**why me**” is often “**because of me**”!

If you win the Lotto, are you going to ask “why me” or are you going to be happy? Someone MUST win the Lotto at some point in time. If you swimming with a large crowd and a shark swims up and attack you while there were 999 others in the water, are you going to ask why me? Well, if it attacked the person next to you, guess what!? They would probably also have said “why me” and if it attacked any of the remaining 998 people, each one would probably have said the same thing, “why me”. If the shark wanted to attack, it would attack at least someone and you were probably the closest to it.

Your “**why me**” is often “**it had to be someone**”!

*“No one is without troubles, without personal hardships and genuine challenges. That fact may not be obvious because most people don't advertise their woes and heartaches. But nobody, not even the purest heart, escapes life without suffering battle scars.” – **Richelle E.***

Goodrich, Smile Anyway: Quotes, Verse, and Grumbings for Every Day of the Year



“Don't be too quick to draw conclusions from what happens to you; simply let it happen. Otherwise it will be too easy for you to look with blame... at your past, which naturally has a share with everything that now meets you.” – Rainer Maria Rilke, Letters to a Young Poet

BOTTOM LINE: When bad things happen to you, your natural response is to say “why” or “why me”, but why not you and why someone else!

It may be you due to or indirectly due to your actions or no actions!

13. WHERE IS GOD?

I think this picture answers this question very well:



Let us see:

- 1) God is at the door, you have to let Him in!
- 2) What if you ask God to come into your life? Will you be serious with all your heart or just do it for Him to fix your problems quickly?
- 3) What if you keep on doing the wrong things over and over and then just ask God each time to come in and help? How long will that last? (see next paragraph).

God is here with us all, ALL the time and many of the paragraphs within this article are linked to “where is God”. God may be with you and prepared to go with you through your pains or God wants you to grow from the negative experiences or God wants you to Trust Him to solve your problems or He may have bigger plans with your “suffering” or with the suffering, God wants you to come back to Him, or... there can be many many reasons why God does not seem to directly intervene!

Even Jesus wanted God to intervene and not allow him to suffer and die for our sins:

39 He went on a little farther and bowed with his face to the ground, praying, “My Father! If it is possible, let this cup of suffering be taken away from me. Yet I want your will to be done, not mine.”

40 Then he returned to the disciples and found them asleep. He said to Peter, “Couldn’t you watch with me even one hour?”



41 Keep watch and pray, so that you will not give in to temptation. For the spirit is willing, but the body is weak!”

42 Then Jesus left them a second time and prayed, “My Father! If this cup cannot be taken away unless I drink it, your will be done.”

43 When he returned to them again, he found them sleeping, for they couldn't keep their eyes open.

44 So he went to pray a third time, saying the same things again.

Matthew 26:39-44

BUT!

There is a BUT in the above, because Jesus added something to His Prayer that we all should do and remember. During His initial suffering He not only asked God's help BUT said the following:

Yet I want your will to be done, not mine.

Your will be done.

BOTTOM LINE: God is right here, just a prayer away! He is standing at your door, just open it and let Him in and see what happens, BUT remember that **His Will must be done**, as He knows better and has a bigger plan we cannot comprehend.

14. “ON CALL” GENIE IN A BOTTLE

We all know the “Genie in a Bottle” story, just rub the bottle, the Genie appears and you can ask/wish what you want (“*YOUR wish is MY COMMAND*”).

That is what we seem to try with God! When we want something sorted, we just Pray and expect God to appear and solve the problem!

God is actually a Genie, because He can do anything, but:

God is NOT your Genie!

God is NOT our Genie!

God is nobody’s Genie!

God is God and to be respected!



Instead, it should be the opposite. WE should be like a Genie and when God asks, WE should “appear” and state “*Your wish is my command, how can I help save other souls*”. Yes, that is about all we can do, because God does not really need a “Genie”!

Do you think God “likes” it if people hardly communicates with Him, but when there is a draught or other problem, people all of a sudden get together and start praying to “talk” to and ask God for help? What if Man keeps on messing up and then each time just quickly turn to God for help?

If you have given your children rules to obey, but they keep on breaking them and get into trouble and expect you as parent to solve their problems each time, as a parent you will probably help out a few times, but there may come a time that you will have to let them learn their own lessons. Somewhere a line needs to be drawn!

BOTTOM LINE: When we have problems (that we probably caused ourselves in the first place), do not treat God as your “Genie”. Always ask His assistance, but DO NOT EXPECT Him to just Solve everything each time. Also make sure you are in constant contact with God, rather than only running to Him during bad times.

15. SOME “CHRISTIANS” EXACERBATE OUR PROBLEMS

This sounds confusing?

So if you experiencing problems in life and need guiding help, be careful to go to someone that will say what you want them to say or what you want to hear:

*For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths. **2 Timothy 4:3-4***

Also take care of going to a false profits for help:

*13 For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. 14 And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. 15 Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works. **2 Corinthians 11:13-15***

That false profit will not solve your problems and that could mean that you may lose faith in God and/or your religion. There are many preachers/profits and “holy” men and woman out there:

*15 Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. **Matthew 7:15***

The bible warns us many times about them:

*1 Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. **1 John 4:1***

These false profits WILL give you FALSE HOPE:

*14 Then the LORD said unto me, The prophets prophesy lies in my name: I sent them not, neither have I commanded them, neither spake unto them: they prophesy unto you a false vision and divination, and a thing of nought, and the deceit of their heart. **Jeremiah 14:14***

Many “Christians” become “Christians” and once they believe they have their “ticket” to Heaven, they stop doing anything to make a difference to this bad/sad world we live in! They should not ask God to intervene or ask “why does God not intervene” and solve the problems of earth, because what are they doing to solve the problems on earth? If us Christians do nothing to make a difference in the first place, then how can we expect God to do so? We are here on earth to serve and make a difference, but if we do not do so, then do not expect God to solve your own problems!



Be a dedicated Christian and make a difference, before expecting God to make a difference.

As Christian, do not complain about something if you can actually do something about it! Get your hands and feet dirty. Take ownership! Many people renting properties do not care for the property, as they are not the owner, but God made man the owner of earth to look after it, so we are owners that need to take responsibility.

BOTTOM LINE: Imagine going to a false prophet or a “Christian” for help, but their heart and soul is NOT with God! Imagine they pray for your healing or your problems, but nothing happens! Many people in that position will stop believing that God can or will help! Many may also lose faith in “Profits/Christians” as a result.

Such “holy” people actually cause more damage and harm.

We must make a difference and help in the first place.



SECTION D

WHY (OUR) PROBLEMS ARE ACTUALLY NOT THAT BAD

16. “TINS” AND STUFF INSIDE THEM

You may not understand at first, but I believe this is a good start and although a roundabout way, the aim is for you to realise some key facts...



Here goes:

Let us use Tins/Cans to represent humans, so there are many different tins (different types of people) and each one has different labels (labels refer to people being in different environments, having different friends, different families and living in different locations like countries, suburbs, houses).

Each tin (person) may differ in size and shape, but most tins are similar in size just like the Bell curve below showing that most people fall within the “average” category:



Some tins (people) may thus be larger or shorter, but all are made of the same stuff (e.g. aluminium or other treated metals) just like all people made of flesh and blood:



Each tin has different stuff inside, just like each person having different Personalities/Spirits and a Soul:



The inside of the Tin is what matters...

**The tin is important, as it holds the inside, but not close as important as the inside.
Once we have consumed the inside, the tin is basically useless and can be thrown away.**

Some tins have nice and expensive labels (people projected as rich), creating the perception that their inside (their soul/spirit) is also good, but is it?:

"Perfect life"



Is the inside of this tin enough to sustain a person for life?

Other tins may have no labels (no possessions), look damaged and live on the streets:

Lost all



Many tins have experienced dents in life (illness, loss):

Small dent in life



Some tins may have experienced larger dents in life (experienced more severe illness/injuries) and guess what, the dents also impact the inside (impacting their soul/spirit to some extent, it all depends on the type and resilience of the person):

Life made a dent in their
life



Others may have more severe damage such as the loss of a loved one or their house:



Some tins have “bad”, unhealthy or disgusting insides, just like some people having bad, unhealthy or disgusting personalities/souls/spirits:

Bad Soul...



Now a kicker:

Most people (like that Bell curve) have “mainstream” insides (similar personalities/souls/spirits), which is OK, but do they really make a huge difference in life? The first tin below aims to help plants grow, so has a different “inside” to the mainstream tins:



User by a few



Unique

Used by Millions



Mainstream

In regards to the above, most tins (people) have insides (souls) that will be consumed, digested and excreted to a wastewater treatment facility, so making no major positive impact/difference to this world. Only a few tins with unique insides (souls) like the first square tin above, will really make a huge positive difference to this world (e.g. the inside of the first square tin will assist many fruit/vegetables to grow and in turn result in many other tins to be filled).

Your Body (flesh and bones like the tin) in the end means nothing, it is the inside that matters. Once the inside has served its purpose, the outside (tin) can be thrown away.

All go to the same place. All came from the dust and all return to the dust

Ecclesiastes 3:20

If bad things happen to you or people close to you, it is bad, but look what God has to say about this:

Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell.

Matthew 10:28

For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life.

Galatians 6:8

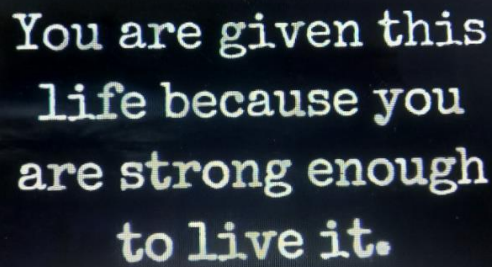


*A good name is better than precious ointment, and the day of death than the day of birth. It is better to go to the house of mourning than to go to the house of feasting, for this is the end of all mankind, and the living will lay it to heart. Sorrow is better than laughter, for by sadness of face the heart is made glad. The heart of the wise is in the house of mourning, but the heart of fools is in the house of mirth. **Ecclesiastes 7:1-4***

*²¹ For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. ²² If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know! ²³ I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far; ²⁴ but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body. ²⁵ Convinced of this, I know that I will remain, and I will continue with all of you for your progress and joy in the faith, - **Philippians 1:21-25***

BOTTOM LINE: God basically says we should not be afraid of dying (the tin is not critical), but if our insides (spirit/soul) are harmed, then we have a huge problem (the inside of the tin is the important stuff). Do Angles cry when someone is born due to the challenges awaiting man, but rejoice when man dies?

17. WE CAN ACTUALLY HANDLE IT



You are given this
life because you
are strong enough
to live it.

Quotes & Sayings

God will not give you something that you are unable to cope with!

¹³ No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it. - 1 Corinthians 10:13

Just like Maximus in Gladiator:

“Nothing happens to anyone that he is not fitted by nature to bear.” – Maximus

We are pressed on every side by troubles, but we are not crushed. We are perplexed, but not driven to despair. We are hunted down, but never abandoned by God. We get knocked down, but we are not destroyed - 2 Corinthians 4:8-11

“Life keeps throwing me curve balls and I don't even own a bat. At least my dodging skills are improving.” — Jayleigh Cape

BOTTOM LINE: Believe it or not, you CAN actually handle all situations, you MUST believe that, else you will just exacerbate your problems and fall in depression. If you still feel you cannot handle it, below is an open invitation from God:



“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy and my burden is light” (Matthew 11:28-30)

18. BAD CAN ALSO BE GOOD FOR YOU!

People who fail must rather remain positive and learn from their failures.

“Happiness is not the absence of problems; it’s the ability to deal with them.” - Steve Maraboli

People who suffer but get through it, will come out stronger.

“Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope” - Romans 5:3-4

We have to take risks and some risks may bring rewards, but others could bring problems/issues. Does this mean nobody should take risks? Does this mean nobody should try things out? There is a saying *“The higher the risk, the higher the reward”*, so if you have the correct attitude when things go wrong, you can learn from them!

“But this is what we do, who we are. Live for nothing, or die for something. Your call.”

-John Rambo, 'Rambo'.

When you suffer for a (good) purpose, then there is value in that “suffering”. How many Christians have given up their life (on earth) to spread the Word? Well, they will be rewarded...

But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. “Do not fear their threats; do not be frightened.” - 1 Peter 3:14

Yes, do not avoid problems by doing what is not right. Example, you are part of a gang and they want to murder someone, so instead of running away and getting into trouble with the gang members, you “go with the flow” and the actual consequences are even worse...

This one sounds wild, but if you have the ability to really look at the BIGGER picture, then it makes totally sense.

For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe in him, but also to suffer for him. - Philippians 1:29



Those that believe in what is correct and just and does the right thing, will receive the rewards:

*The righteous person may have many troubles, but the Lord delivers him from them all -
Psalm 34:19*

*Whoever finds their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life for my sake will find it -
Matthew 10:39*

Take chances and you may gain from it:

*“Nothing is predestined. The obstacles of your past can become the gateways that lead to new beginnings.”— **Ralph Blum***

*“If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant: if we did not sometimes taste of adversity, prosperity would not be so welcome.”— **Anne Bradstreet, The Works of Anne Bradstreet***

*“You are in danger of living a life so comfortable and soft, that you will die without ever realizing your true potential.” - **David Goggins, Can't Hurt Me: Master Your Mind and Defy the Odds***

“Why do you want to shut out of your life any uneasiness, any misery, any depression, since after all you don't know what work these conditions are doing inside you? Why do you want to persecute yourself with the question of where all this is coming from and where it is going?

*Since you know, after all, that you are in the midst of transitions and you wished for nothing so much as to change. If there is anything unhealthy in your reactions, just bear in mind that sickness is the means by which an organism frees itself from what is alien; so one must simply help it to be sick, to have its whole sickness and to break out with it, since that is the way it gets better.” — **Rainer Maria Rilke, Letters to a Young Poet***

If you want to develop bigger and muscle endurance, you have to basically “hurt” your muscles! You basically break them:

Intense lifting causes several microscopic tears to form in the fiber and connective tissue of muscles, according to the Cleveland Clinic. With proper rest and nutrients, the muscles



slowly rebuild over the following days, but full repair can take a week or more.

www.Livestrong.com

What the above means is that you can only grow and improve if you basically expose yourself which entails an amount of “suffering”! It give your muscles endurance and even the Bible said this:

*Count it all joy, my brothers, when you fall into various temptations, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. Let endurance have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing – **Jacob 1: 2-4***

BOTTOM LINE: What does “lessons learnt” mean? We all fail at some stage, but **MUST** see the Positive side of it, even if it is a Negative experience! Not only is it logical, but the Bible also says we should see the positive in problems, it makes us stronger. Practice makes perfect, so the more you retry after failures, the better you will become.

19. WEEKEND AWAY VS ALWAYS

So for how long has your problems/suffering been going on?

I used a version of the story below in another article before, it goes more or less like this:

A couple noted an advert and pictures of a holiday resort that looked beautiful AND it was at an unbelievable price, almost too good to be true! Since they never went away, they decided to take up the offer. For their weekend away, they arranged people to come live in their house, because they had a lot of pets that needed full time attention. So off they went to their weekend break away. All excited they arrived at their destination, but it did not look like the pictures. The weekend ended up chaotic. When they got their room key, they battled 20 min to get the key to open the door. Once in, the beds were sagging, there was no view and just as they had unpacked, they were informed that there was a double booking and they had to move rooms from bad to worse. After eating and going to bed as soon as possible, since there was not much else to do, they heard rats running on their ceiling which kept them up all night, but then...

At 4 am their stomachs started screaming with excruciating pain, so food poisoning spoiled their next day! But that is not all, they started inching and inching, what was wrong? Apart from inching and stomach pains, their eyes started watering, followed by sneezing. Upon closer inspection, they discovered that their beds were not only dusty causing Sinus, but was also riddled with bed bugs! In the meantime, a snow storm broke out and all roads were closed! This meant they had nowhere to go! As it was getting colder and colder, the heater packed up, so they were:

- In pain;
- Standing in a queue at the toilet;
- Inching and sneezing;
- Scared of their beds; and
- Cold.

That Saturday night they did not want to sleep in their beds, so ended up trying to sleep on the floor against each other to keep warm. Sunday they went without food again in fear of more food poisoning and they really really wanted to leave ASAP, but the weather was just too bad, so they were stuck in the chaos. Fortunately the weather started clearing late Sunday afternoon and they were off in a jolt. A terrible weekend they never wanted to forget.

See what the Bible says:

And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. - [1 Peter 5:10](#)

The weekend was a disaster, but that was just 3 days of their entire life! Similarly, our (chaotic) life on earth is very short “lived”:

*“¹⁴ Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes”. - **James 4:14***

*“In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials” - **1 Peter 1:6-7***

*“We do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal” - **2 Corinthians 4:16-18***

To illustrate how long our “problems” and “chaotic” life on earth lasts, imagine our entire life of say 100 years represented as 1 (one) sand grain, yes, one of those little sand grains in the picture below:



Credit: <https://www.insider.com/photos-of-beautiful-deserts-around-the-world-2020-6>

Now imagine life after earth (life after death) being at least on each of the subsequent sand gains in the above picture for another 100 years (and more, because it is forever).

BOTTOM LINE: Problems/issues/suffering on earth is very **short** (time flies) and nothing compared to the GUARANTEED NO problems, NO issues, NO suffering in Heaven **forever**, but...

The “but” is that you need to earn God’s Grace and that is an article for another day.



20. SUFFERING BRINGS US CLOSER TO GOD

How many people talk to God regularly when everything is going well? We tend to forget during our busy schedule making lots of money! When things go well, we drift away from God until there are problems, then quickly run to God.

When things go bad, it not only brings us back closer to God, but it also makes us stronger to face more challenges in life:

*¹⁰ That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong - **2 Corinthians 12:10***

Stronger and stronger:

*More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope - **Romans 5:3-4***

“Suffering” also tests your faith and makes us more strong:

*Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. – **James 1:2-5***

Do not worry, you will be comforted (if you ask God):

*“Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted – **Matthew 5:4***

This one is interesting!

*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 Corinthians 1:3-4***

If you close to God, NOTHING can separate you:

*“Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?” - **Romans 8:35***



God wants us to call on Him, NOT to quickly solve a problem, but to get, and stay close to God, because life on earth constantly “pulls” us away from God. God is waiting for you, he is at the door, in good and bad times, YOU need to take the required action:

Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me. - Revelation 3:20

Expect anything in life”

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. 1 Peter 4:12-13

God might allow your body to suffer so that your Spirit can get closer to Him, because your body is only the “Tin” and almost worthless, but the inside is the important stuff.

BOTTOM LINE: God wants our attention! God may not cause draught, but if we turn to God (which is what God wants), He may bring relief...



SECTION E

WHAT WE CAN OR SHOULD DO

21. LET US DISCUSS CONTROLS

Why this topic here? Well, YOU MUST at least try and limit your problems/troubles in the first place via CONTROLS! You cannot expect being reckless and then when things turn out bad, run to God or start blaming God!

Even the Bible says you must be **proactive** and take action to prevent bad things happening:

*“Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. Stand firm therefore, having girded your loins with **truth**, and having put on the breastplate of **righteousness**, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of **peace**; in addition to all, taking up the shield of **faith** with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. And take the helmet of **salvation**, and the sword of the **Spirit**, which is the word of God. With all **prayer and petition pray at all times** in the Spirit, and with this in view, **be on the alert** with all perseverance and petition for all the saints, and **pray** on my behalf, that **utterance** may be given to me in the **opening of my mouth**, to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in proclaiming it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak. Ephesians 6:10-20*

SO WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO LIMIT YOUR PROBLEMS/ISSUES IN LIFE?

As an Auditor for more than 30 years, **Controls** have been my main focus and for clarity, there are a number of control types, namely:

A Directive Control: This is like a Policy, Procedure or a Stop sign which directs the reader to a preferred behaviour (what to do or not to do). This control is not 100% effective, because it depends on the person’s ethics (an unethical person can decide not to obey a stop sign).

A Preventative Control: This is the best control, as it aims to prevent an incident/problem from taking place in the first place. What would be such an example? A Preventative Control would be to prevent people from entering a contaminated area via a locked gate (prevention is (always) better than cure).

A Detective Control: This one is aimed at identifying a problem/risk as early as possible, like a smoke detector in the kitchen. The alarm should go off if excessive smoke is detected and aims to limit the impact/damage further.

A Corrective Control: This is aimed at correcting a problem/risk after it has taken place. An example of this would be to implement stronger passwords after the existing weak passwords were compromised by a hacker.

So why am I covering controls? Because “life happens”. Things happen either by accident or “on purpose”. Let us unpack each:

- **By Accident: Example 1** = When you driving and all off a sudden a car comes crashing through a fence into your car. This is something you could not have expected or prepared for. You were innocent in this regard, but perhaps the person causing the accident was texting on their phone (so they actually caused the accident almost on purpose). **Example 2** = When heavy rains flood your house;
- **“On purpose”:** **Example 1** = When someone overdose on drugs and lands in intensive care, **Example 2** = Someone taking part in a dangerous sport. “On purpose” here refers to a deliberate act by someone aware of the dangers/risks involved.

By the way, if you take part in a dangerous sport because you trust that God will take care of you or you EXPECT God to take care of you, then take note of the following:

*Jesus answered him, “It is also written: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test - **Matthew 4:7***

And

*Do not put the LORD your God to the test as you did at Massah - **Deuteronomy 6:16***

Or

*Do not tempt or test God - **1 Corinthians 10:9***

The above message is clear: You cannot expect God to take care of you if you do dangerous things without YOU taking care of yourself via “controls” first. Controls prevent and/or limit the impact of problems! You can however ask God to assist you for instance not to look for or cause problems:

*Set a guard, O Lord, over my mouth; keep watch over the door of my lips! **Psalms 141:3***

In the table below, I unpack the examples above and what the impact of controls could make:

CATEGORY	WHAT CONTROL COULD HELP	TYPE OF CONTROL
By Accident, example 1	Car crash: Not much, but having your seatbelt on or a car with lots of airbags, would help in limiting the impact and staying as vigilant as possible, could make a difference.	Preventative control
By Accident, example 2	Flooding due to heavy rains: Has this happened before, if so, you should know it can happen again and you should then have built trenches or drainage pipes or moved to a higher location.	Corrective control

CATEGORY	WHAT CONTROL COULD HELP	TYPE OF CONTROL
	Did you look at the flood-line before building and thus built higher up?	Preventative control
“On purpose”, example 1	Drug abuse: The best is not to use drugs in the first place. Not to try it ever, because many get hooked on their first attempt and cannot turn back. Alternatively, go for therapy.	Prevention is better than cure To go for therapy would be a corrective control
“On purpose”, example 2	Dangerous sport: If you really want to take part in a dangerous sport because you love it, then you could attempt implementing controls to at least limit your risks (example: Clift diving, then make sure you do not jump when there is a strong wind, make sure you have an extra parachute, test them regularly and select a safer spot with less sharp cliffs).	Preventative control related to the wind and Corrective control related to the extra Parachute

Note that some “accidents” are actually caused “on purpose”! (by another) Confused? Let me give an example to illustrate:

Many car “accidents” are actually not by accident, but caused on “purpose”. If you look at the Root cause, then you realise that some human is to blame for the “accident”. Example: that person may have been texting on their phone, or had a little too much to drink or did not get enough sleep or was not focussing on the road and thus crashed into another. Real “accidents” are thus isolated, because most problems are actually caused by humans (“on purpose”)! Even if an animal attacks a human, that could be due to the humans causing deforesting or feeding the wild animal or teasing them, or...

Since most problems in life seem to be caused by people, “Controls” help minimise them!

Although most problems are caused by people, there are still things that happen by Chance and Controls may not prevent them. Even the Bible says that some things happen by CHANCE and at RANDOM TIMES:

Again I saw that under the sun the race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, nor bread to the wise, nor riches to the intelligent, nor favor to those with knowledge, but time and chance happen to them all. - Ecclesiastes 9:11

The Bible is also clear that good and bad things happen to ALL (good and bad things happen to good as well as evil people):

*So that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust - **Matthew 5:45***

Yes, random things (good/bad) happen to ALL:

*It is the same for all, since the same event happens to the righteous and the wicked, to the good and the evil, to the clean and the unclean, to him who sacrifices and him who does not sacrifice. As the good one is, so is the sinner, and he who swears is as he who shuns an oath - **Ecclesiastes 9:2***

Again, the Bible states that bad things happen to ALL so if you a good person, it does not guarantee that nothing bad will happen to you:

*Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you - **1 Peter 5:8-10***

Just a quick note on the above and controls:

You are going to be tempted to do evil that will cause suffering (bad things happening to you or others), but if you apply Preventative Controls, you can avoid those bad things from happening. Let me give some examples below:

Example 1:

You are tempted when noticing money on a table and decide to steal it. You did not see the security camera and they catch you out, now you need to face the consequences of being arrested.

Example 2:

You sleep around and as a result, you contract a disease and now you down and out.

For the above, a Preventative control would be to walk away BEFORE doing the act.

A Corrective control would be to return the money plus interest, although there will still be consequences, and for the disease, you may have to take medication.

Always remember:



“8 Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour” - 1 Peter 5:8

Note that YOU should also NOT be the Devil’s accomplice (accidentally or on purpose), as this could also be the cause of problems and harm to others. Example, you left that money on that table or you may have introduced your friend to a lady that you know sleeps around with unhealthy hygiene.

BOTTOM LINE: If we implement controls, we can MINIMISE, but NOT always eliminate bad things from happening to us. A PREVENTATIVE control could prevent or limit a bad thing from happening to us. So if something bad happens to you, did you have some control measures in place? If NOT, then perhaps you should blame yourself...?

22. LEAN ON GOD

Do you trust only yourself? The problem is you are human! Why not trust a “super-Human”?

God has got your back and a plan for you:

“No hair fall without God’s will” - Lucas 8: 22- 25

God will look after you:

28 “And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin.

29 Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these.

30 If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith?

Matthew 6:28-30

There are however terms and conditions involved! If you do not fully TRUST God, it will not work.

Let us look at this well-known verse that people often use and cling to:

11 For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future - Jeremiah 29:11

It sounds as if we are **guaranteed** of **no harm and prosperity**. The problem is we stop short and only use this part of the verse! We forget that there is a TRUST factor needed (Terms and Conditions) as covered in the subsequent verses, so let us look further at what verse 12 and 13 states:

“11 For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future -

12 Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you.

13 You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart” - Jeremiah 29:11-13

Let us analyse the above:

- 1) YOU need to call on God
- 2) YOU need to pray
- 3) YOU need to seek God AND not only superficially

4) BUT with **ALL** your heart!

So there are 4 requirements.

The first 3 are difficult for people who rely on themselves only or do not believe in God, but the 4th one is extremely extremely difficult. The “ALL your heart” could be a deal breaker! If you do not comply with these 4 things 100%, verse 11 will NOT materialise. Here is verse 11 again:

11 For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future - Jeremiah 29:11

BUT it needs to be read with verse 12 and 13.

You are being invited by God to come to Him with your problems:

28 Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

Matthew 11:28-29

Even the above has Terms and Conditions, because you should turn to God in a sincere way only.

“If they lie to me, they don’t respect me. If they don’t respect me, how can they ever love me?” – Commodus

BOTTOM LINE: God invites you to turn to Him, but YOU need to do so (by communicating with God via prayer), not just via superficial prayer, but via serious dedicated communication (“all your hart stuff”).

By the way, even the above verses do not say you will never experience problems, but you will receive HOPE and COMFORT.



23. TRUST GOD

Do the most difficult thing against your nature and that is not to trust your instincts and subsequent actions, but to Trust God!

“Casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you” – 1 Peter 5:7

“Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls” - Matthew 11:28-29

Do not just superficially “trust” God, but Trust Him with ALL YOUR HEART and only then...

Easier said than done:

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight” – Proverbs 3:5-6

BECAUSE:

- 1) That “all your heart” is very very difficult! It means FULL commitment, FULL concentration, FULL trust, ZERO doubt, FULL Faith, almost impossible for a Human!
- 2) Our 5 senses run our lives, so when there is imminent danger, our reality takes over instead of trusting the unseen, untasted, un-smelled, untouched and unheard.

When I am in distress, I call to you, because you answer me - Psalm 86:7

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God - Philippians 4:6-8

Trust comes with Faith.

²⁴ *Suddenly a furious storm came up on the lake, so that the waves swept over the boat. But Jesus was sleeping. ²⁵ The disciples went and woke him, saying, “Lord, save us! We’re going to drown!”*

²⁶ *He replied, “You of little faith, why are you so afraid?” Then he got up and rebuked the winds and the waves, and it was completely calm.*

²⁷ *The men were amazed and asked, “What kind of man is this? Even the winds and the waves obey him!” - Matthew 8:24-27*



And with little Faith comes consequences:

25 Shortly before dawn Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. 26 When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. “It’s a ghost,” they said, and cried out in fear.

27 But Jesus immediately said to them: “Take courage! It is I. Don’t be afraid.”

28 “Lord, if it’s you,” Peter replied, “tell me to come to you on the water.”

29 “Come,” he said.

Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. 30 But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, “Lord, save me!”

*31 Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. “**You of little faith,**” he said, “**why did you doubt?**”*

BOTTOM LINE: Are you going to trust yourself or another person who has their own problems and weaknesses or a machine that can break or should you rather trust our “Superman”?

24. PRAY

Pray to not get yourself in trouble:

⁴⁰ On reaching the place, he said to them, “Pray that you will not fall into temptation.” – Luke 22:40

Also pray when you are in trouble:

And call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me. Psalm 50:15

Rejoice even in trouble:

“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you” - 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Yes, pray:

“Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus”. - Philippians 4:6

Without prayer and without the correct motives...:

¹ What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you?

² You desire but do not have, so you kill. You covet but you cannot get what you want, so you quarrel and fight. You do not have because you do not ask God.

³ When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.

James 4:1-3

Pray! Stay in constant communication with God.

Let us look at some of the requirements:

“Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer” - Romans 12:12

Unpacking the above:

- 1) Keep on hoping, but with friendly positivity
- 2) Wait and wait, be patient (God’s time, not yours)
- 3) Your prayer **MUST** be with faith, else it will be worthless (a short word = “Believe”)

What if prayer does not seem to work?

A woman was once asked:

What do you "gain" from praying to God regularly?

She replied:

Usually *"I don't earn anything", but rather "I lose things"*.

And she quoted everything she lost praying to God regularly:

I **lost** my pride.

I **lost** my arrogance.

I **lost** greed.

I **lost** my urge.

I **lost** "my" anger.

I **lost** the lust.

I **lost** the pleasure of lying.

I **lost** the taste of sin.

I **lost** impatience, despair, and discouragement.

Sometimes we pray, not to gain something, but to lose things that don't allow us to grow spiritually.

Prayer educates, strengthens, and heals.

Prayer is the channel that connects us directly to God."



Want to bring God closer to you? The text about God standing at the door knocking, not only applies, but this one as well:

“Draw near to God and He will draw near to you Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.” – James 4:8

Humble yourself AND turn away from Sin is some more requirements:

“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

BOTTOM LINE: So prayer is critical, BUT with the right motives and with seriousness and concentration, so a number of requirements from YOU, else you not going to experience results.

25. DO NOT FEAR

The Bible has 365 entries stating we must NOT Fear! Quite an incidental number isn't it? One reminder for each day of the year! So every day of each year you are told NOT to Fear!

"God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea; The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress." - Psalm 46:1-2, 7

"Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid. The Lord, the Lord himself, is my strength and my defense." - Isaiah 12:2

Although we are told so many times NOT to Fear, our 5 senses and thoughts makes us Fear.

We worry about the next day's meeting/presentation, but see what God says:

"³⁴ Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own" - Matthew 6:34

As stated earlier, we are dictated and guided by our 5 senses and often fear things that do not actually occur.



The results found that 91.4% of the predictions did not come true.

BOTTOM LINE: You are being told 365 times NOT to Fear. If you actually Fear, it says you do not trust God, but it is a difficult thing not to fear due to our 5 senses running our lives.



26. MIRACLES DO HAPPEN

The Bible is full of Miracles:

While you stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus - Acts 4:30

To another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues - 1 Corinthians 12:10

And God was doing extraordinary miracles by the hands of Paul - Acts 19:11

While God also bore witness by signs and wonders and various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will - Hebrews 2:4

YOU can actually also perform miracles, BUT look at the underline parts:

And Jesus said to him, "If you can! All things are possible for one who believes." - Mark 9:23

And Jesus answered them, "Truly, I say to you, if you have faith and do not doubt, you will not only do what has been done to the fig tree, but even if you say to this mountain, 'Be taken up and thrown into the sea,' it will happen." - Matthew 21:21

Miracles did NOT stop after Jesus left earth, miracles happen each day. Just ask friends and family close to you and they will have a (miracle) story to tell or just Google "Miracles" and you will find many!

So what am I getting at?

If you have a problem/issue in life and it seems impossible to resolve, Miracles can still happen

BOTTOM LINE: If you believe, you can move mountains! Yes, miracles happen every day, so why not to you? You need to believe and trust.



Bad things?





27. I NOTE THAT PEOPLE AROUND ME ARE SUFFERING MORE

What if you have problems, but there are people all around you with BIGGER problems? Should you all complain?

There is this saying: “*people are complaining with a white bread under their arm*”. This means that the person can afford to buy a more expensive variant of bread (white bread is considered more expensive than brown bread) and they can afford to buy food, but still complain while others are not able to do so.

Look what the Bible says:

*Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due,
when it is in your power to act.*

28 *Do not say to your neighbor,*

“Come back tomorrow and I’ll give it to you”—

*when you already have it with you. Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due,
when it is in your power to act.*

28 *Do not say to your neighbor,*

“Come back tomorrow and I’ll give it to you”—

when you already have it with you.

Proverbs 3: 1-40

Even if bad things happen to you, but you have the correct intentions, your suffering will have meaning and value:

41 Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts. 42 But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a few cents.

43 Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, “Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. 44 They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on.”



[Mark 12:41-44](#)

BOTTOM LINE: If you suffering, but still have the ability to Help others, do NOT let it pass by, because you can act as God's "hands".

28. APPROPRIATE ACTION FOR THE TYPICAL PHASES OF GRIEF

So the experts unpack these typical phases of grief:

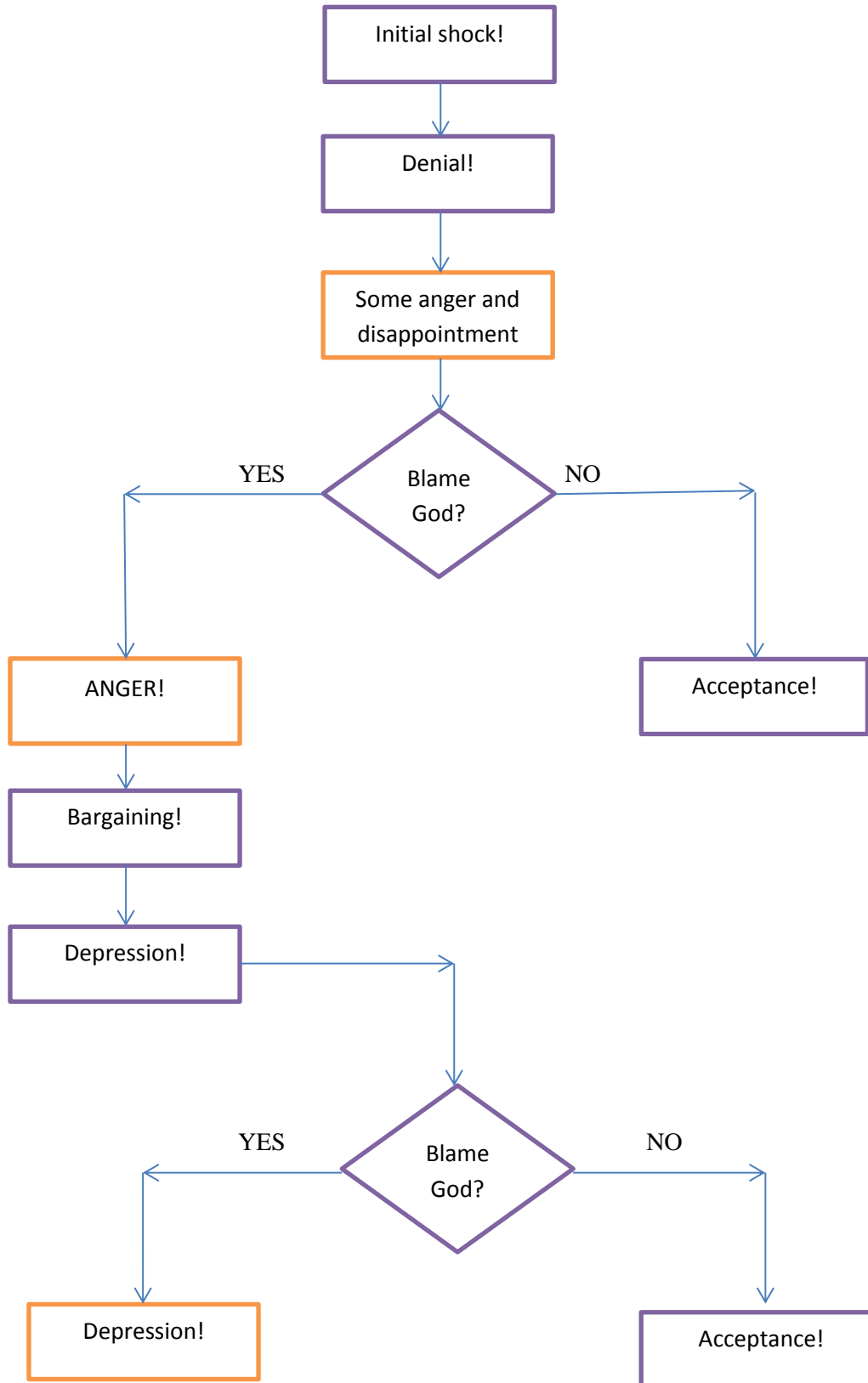
1. Initial Shock,
2. Denial,
3. Anger,
4. Bargaining,
5. Depression and
6. Eventual Acceptance (WE HOPE)

So as you go through these phases, where is the most important turning point?

My answer is shown via a flow diagram below, as it is an easier way to show your options available to you at that turning point and the subsequent consequences.

Not enough space here for diagram, so please turn page.

Let me show this via a flow diagram showing my identified phases:





Unpacking the above:

- 1) There WILL be Initial Shock!
- 2) We often move in Denial
- 3) I believe Anger is normal, so there would be some initial anger
- 4) This is where the first turning point comes in. Are you going to blame God although He did not cause it?
- 5) Acceptance will come at this early stage if you rather turn to God and Trust in him, BUT if you refuse to accept this and Blame God, then more Anger will follow
- 6) Followed by Bargaining either with God, yourself or with others,
- 7) You will experience Depression and here is your second turning point!
- 8) Are you going to carry on blaming God although He did not cause it? If NO, then final Acceptance will come if you turn to God and Trust in him, BUT if you still refuse to accept this and Blame God, then you will go through life depressed and this will obviously have secondary consequences like a possible divorce if the one partner finds acceptance and the other remains depressed!

BOTTOM LINE: You have choices and they will be difficult without turning to God. The consequences are however much worse without turning to God!



SECTION F

THE IMPORTANCE OF SEEING THE BIGGER PICTURE

29. GOD'S PLAN

What are you plans and responsibilities?

Let us see: You are in charge of your household and to a lesser extent for people at work that report to you, some of your friends and family members and perhaps people you come in contact with, unless you a president of a country in which case YOU are responsible for many people, or your decisions and actions are responsible for many:

“But the one who did not know, and did what deserved a beating, will receive a light beating. Everyone to whom much was given, of him much will be required, and from him to whom they entrusted much, they will demand the more” - Luke 12:48

Now what is God responsible for?

The universe!

Maybe even the multiverse and ALL 8 000 000 000 living humans and trillions of plants, birds, insects and other animals on earth plus 110 000 000 Souls who had already left this earth, the Angels and other kings and “creatures” in Heaven and maybe Trillions of other people/creatures on Billions of other planets!

“But even the hairs of your head are all numbered” - Matthew 10:30

So you may have a few responsibilities and decisions in life and may not be aware of the subsequent impacts of your decisions, never mind the secondary “Butterfly Effect” impacts. God on the other hand has a Strategic Plan that none of us can even try to comprehend. He needs to consider the full Butterfly effect upon Butterfly effect across the universe on ALL THINGS and all the links between everything not only for now, but in the future.

Considering the above, you CANNOT question God and His Plan! You CANNOT understand His Plan for acting or not acting. There is a reason for His actions and those do not only have to consider you and the impact on you, but the impact on ALL others now and in further. So a beyond-our-human-comprehension difficult task that God has which needs to satisfy EVERYBODY and EVERYTHING.

Let me give two TRUE STORIES as examples without mentioning their names:

Example 1: A lady was kidnapped, raped, her throat slit and left for dead, but (miraculously) survived. Instead of her constantly questioning God “Why me” or “why did God allow this”, she decided to raise GBV awareness and become a motivational speaker. This **one** negative occurrence actually made a positive impact on **many** others. What did this ordeal do to that lady? If we look at paragraph 1 above, it dented the “Tin” (her body), but the “inside” (her soul/spirit) got over it and decided to make a difference. Her body will in any case die one day!

Example 2: A famous sports star got ill with an incurable disease, but before he died, he started a special foundation to raise awareness of this disease. After his death, his foundation is still going strong and making a difference such as supporting research and supporting those with the same disease. Again, one negative incident resulting in a huge positive impact.

There are many many examples of the above. In isolation, a person will question God why he did not intervene and help, but when looking back at the bigger picture, there is a REASON which we cannot always understand, see or comprehend. There is ALWAYS a Reason!

“We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose” - Romans 8:28

What does the above really say? The people above turned the **BAD** into **GOOD**, they took the bad experience and turned it into an opportunity to make a difference. Other people may become bitter and blame God, so they will experience the bad things NOT as God’s works for the good!

Which one are you? Are you going to take the incident and turn it into something positive or build on the negativity?



We may not always understand, but must TRUST Him:

“5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding” – Proverbs 3:5

Although God has a plan with all of us, it seems He can still change his mind and see how many times this happened in the past and probably happens every day:

*So the Lord changed His mind about the harm which He said He would do to His people.
Exodus 32:14*

*Did Hezekiah king of Judah and all Judah put him to death? Did he not fear the Lord and entreat the favor of the Lord, and the Lord changed His mind about the misfortune which He had pronounced against them? But we are committing a great evil against ourselves.” -
Jeremiah 26:19*

*The Lord changed His mind about this. “It shall not be,” said the Lord. - **Amos 7:3***

*When God saw their deeds, that they turned from their wicked way, then God relented concerning the calamity which He had declared He would bring upon them. And He did not do it. - **Jonah 3:10***

*If that nation against which I have spoken turns from its evil, I will relent concerning the calamity I planned to bring on it. **Jeremiah 18:8***

*When the angel stretched out his hand toward Jerusalem to destroy it, the Lord relented from the calamity and said to the angel who destroyed the people, “It is enough! Now relax your hand!” And the angel of the Lord was by the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite. 2
Samuel 24:16*

Yes, GOD has a Plan for all, even the wicked:

*4 The LORD works out everything to its proper end— even the wicked for a day of disaster.
Proverbs 16:4*

*²¹ Many are the plans in a person’s heart, but it is the LORD’s purpose that prevails -
Proverbs 19:21*

What do we know of life?



We know a little about our life as stated below:

12 For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known. - 1 Corinthians 13:12

We do not know how our life interacts and impacts other lives (the “Butterfly effect”), but one day we will understand.

So never stop praying and trusting God’s Plan/s...

BOTTOM LINE: You actually should not and cannot ask God “why certain things happened to you or someone close to you”, because you can only see or understand things in isolation, the “Butterfly Effect” is beyond your comprehension. If bad things happen, you concentrate/focus on that instead of standing way way back and trying to comprehend the bigger picture.

30. LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL

Things will change:

He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.” - Revelation 21:4

Yes, things will change:

I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.-Romans 8:18

Change not for the better, but for the best:

But, as it is written, “What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him” – 1 Corinthians 2:9

An extract from Leha Shaik’s site:

Question: Why do bad things happen to Good people?

Response: Logically one would say it does not make sense, BUT if one has faith, all things have meaning.

Example:

When you ask for **strength**, God may give you difficulties to make you **strong!**

When you ask for **Wisdom**, God may give you **Problems to Solve**.

When you ask for **Courage**, God may give you **Dangers to overcome**.

When you ask for **Love**, God gives you **Troubled people to Help**.

Your prayers might be answered, albeit in a different way, but if you have faith, ALL things happening to you WILL have meaning”!

BOTTOM LINE:

God said it will not be easy, BUT it will be Worth it.

31. WE ACTUALLY KNOW THE RESULTS

Our preacher had an excellent example (true story) and here goes:

There was an important World-cup final match, but he was not able to watch it, so he requested his family to:

- 1) Record it; and
- 2) NOT to tell him the results upfront.

He also requested those with him at the meeting NOT to tell him who won, but within 5 minutes after the match, everybody around him “spilled the beans”! It was disappointing AND Exciting, because our country WON by a nail biting finish.

Here comes the “kicker”:

He went home and watched the (intense) game and each time he jumped up in fear of the opposition winning, he remembered that “we **WON** in the end”. It was still exciting and **STRESSFUL** to watch, but also **COMFORTING** to know that we had **WON**, no matter how close the opposition got to the goal line during the video playback!

So you might be stressing about all your problems in life, but know this that this world has ALREADY been **WON** when Jesus died at the cross for all. So your life here may be full of problems and **STRESSFUL**, but also **COMFORTING** to know that Heaven is awaiting you (Ts & Cs apply).

I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.” - John 16:33

Suffering has LOST, God has WON this world.

BOTTOM LINE: Let me repeat this “You should know the end result! God has already overcome this world! It is guaranteed”. He has won this world.



32. WHAT IS AWAITING US

So your current suffering is guaranteed to go away:

*He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.” - **Revelation 21:4***

This one tells you that the sufferings on earth is basically not comparable:

*For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us – **Romans 8:18***

There are a number of Ts & Cs, like the one below:

*13 Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: **Fear God and keep his commandments**, for this is the duty of all mankind. **Ecclesiastes 12:13-14***

There is hope:

*¹⁵ If you suffer, it should not be as a murderer or thief or any other kind of criminal, or even as a meddler. ¹⁶ However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name. ¹⁷ For it is time for judgment to begin with God’s household; and if it begins with us, what will the outcome be for those who do not obey the gospel of God? - **1 Peter 4:15-17***

If you suffer as a Christian, you at least have a purpose, just like Rambo said:

“Live for nothing, or die for something”.

Glory awaits:

*5 To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder and a witness of Christ’s sufferings who also will share in the glory to be revealed: 2 Be shepherds of God’s flock that is under your care, watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve; 3 not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. 4 And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away. - **1 Peter 5:1-4***



BOTTOM LINE: We all know the mess earth is in! We know and see how many are suffering, so what is awaiting us can only be better. God actually gives us clues of what is awaiting us in the Bible



SECCION G

CLOSING REMARKS

Before summarising the above, let us just look at some important facts again:

33. SUFFERING ON EARTH AND SAND GRAINS:

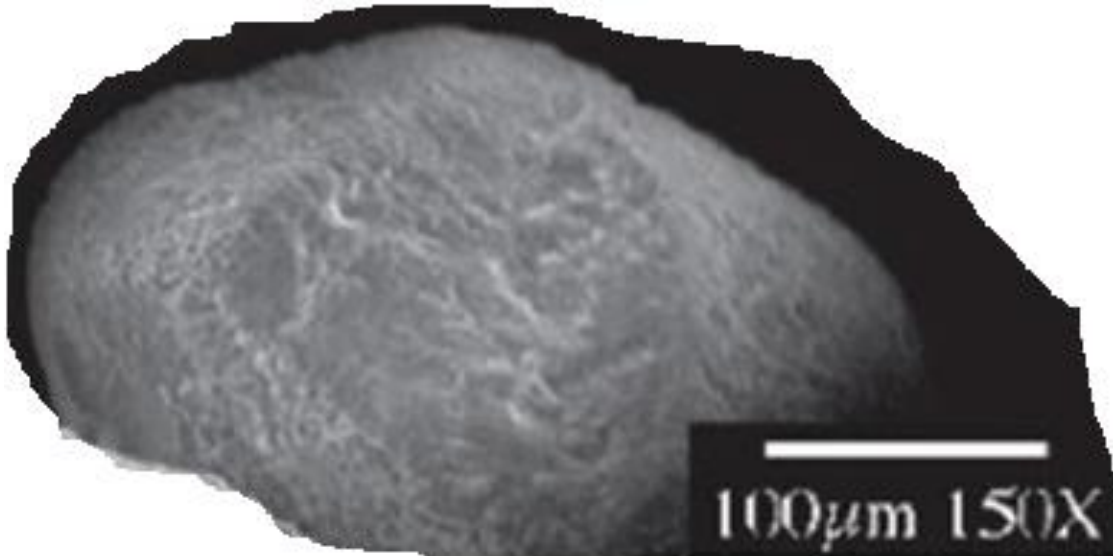
I wrote another article on sand grains but it goes like this:

Life on earth is like living on one sand grain (yes one of those small ones in the desert below) for say 100 years, and after that, you have life on the next sand grain in heaven or hell for the next 100 years and then move onto the next sand grain until you have lived on all the sand grains, but due to “eternity”, it means that you repeat living on each sand grain in heaven or hell again over and over. So can you see how small and insignificant life on earth is?



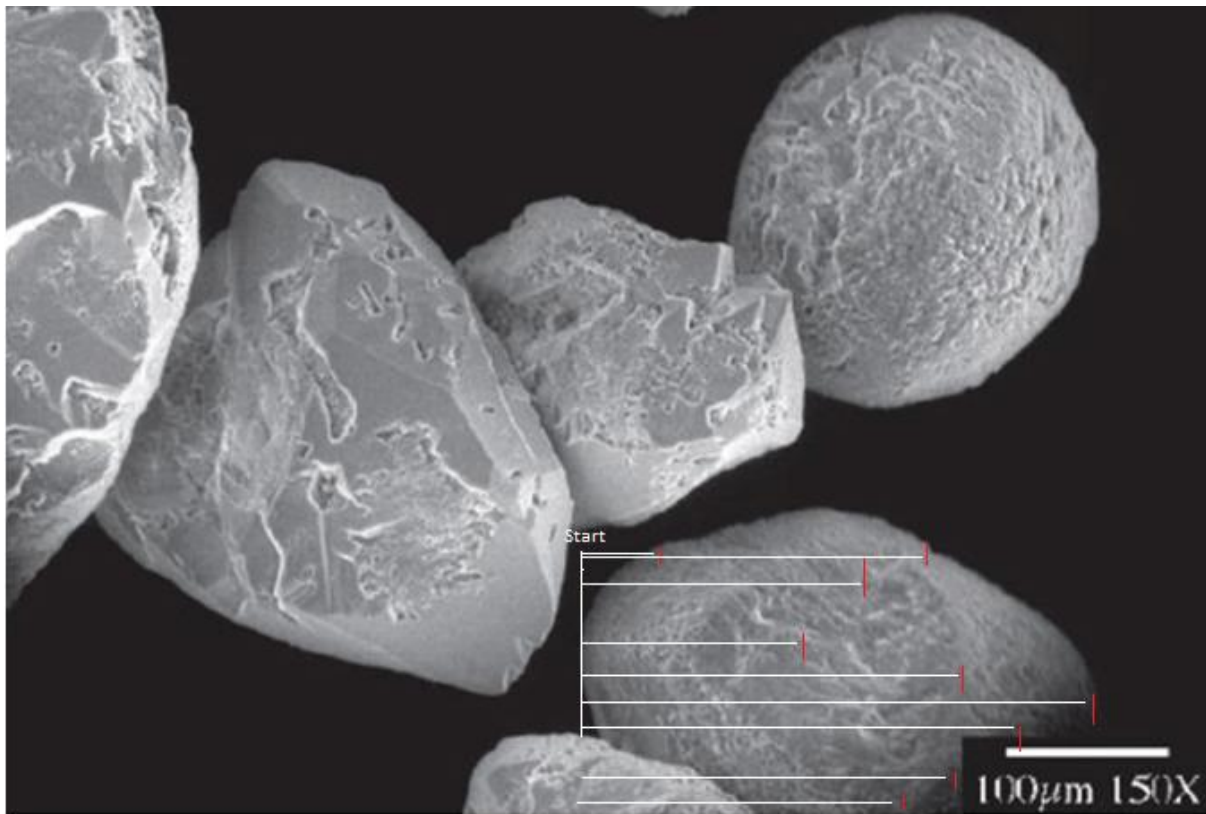
34. TO UNDERSTAND, YOU HAVE TO ZOOM OUT:

Following on the above, one of the sand grains below represents your life and lifespan. Everything you hear, see, taste, smell and feel is represented on this sand grain:



Each one has the same Start line (Birth), but each one's life span differs (the **Red** end line). The **Red** end line is guaranteed and will happen.

We all live and fight while on our horizontal white line and our world revolves around that little line and if there are obstacles on our horizontal white line, many probably ask “Why does God allow this”?



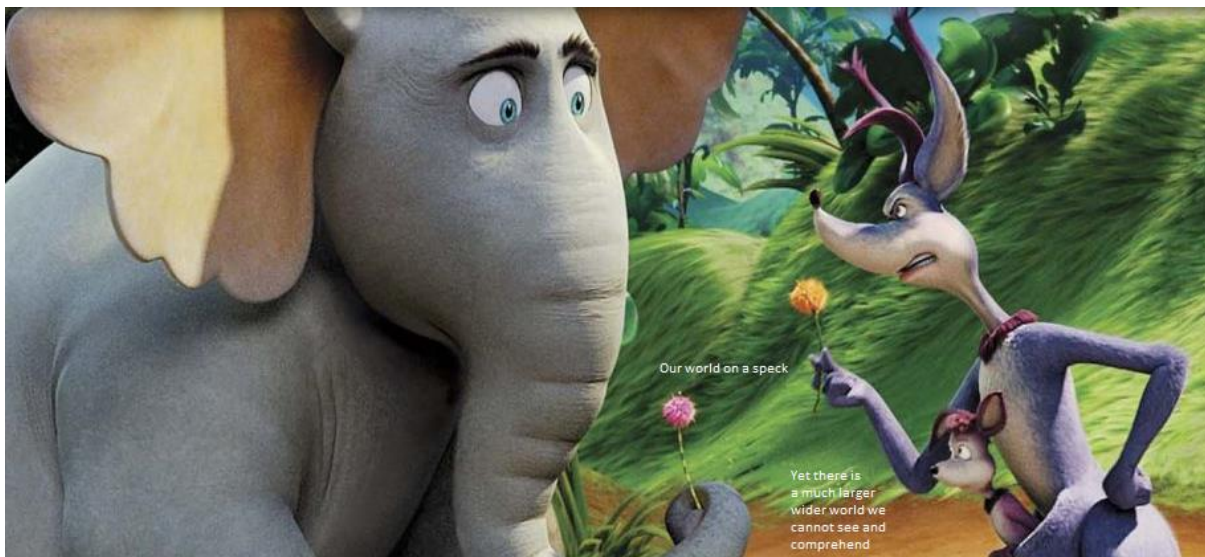
The above represents our physical body's life span (the tin), but we forget and/or do not zoom out to see and understand that this physical life is a fraction of our spiritual eternity. Our spirit still has uncountable infinite life spans like the above awaiting us and much much better (Ts&Cs apply). Yes, the "Ts & Cs" depend on how our lives on earth was lived...

So we moan and groan about our problems on this short lived physical earth and "*how can God allow this and allow that*" or "*how can there be a God if he allows so much suffering*", but almost all the suffering is caused by man and the rest by the Devil. The suffering our bodies encounter is nothing compared to the spiritual live awaiting us on an infinite number of sand grains:



Credit: <https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/nature/habitats/article/desert>

Yes we live on a speck, while there is much much more out there:



Credit: https://dailygazette.com/2008/03/14/0314_Horton/



35. WHAT PAUL WANTED:

Paul knew that life on earth cannot be compared to Heaven. Life on earth is just not that precious and Paul had inside information...

*22 If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know! 23 I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far; 24 but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body. 25 Convinced of this, I know that I will remain, and I will continue with all of you for your progress and joy in the faith - **Philippians 1:22-25***



36. WHAT ABRAHAM WAS PREPARED TO DO:

In the Old testament when man messed up and wanted to say sorry and/or if man just wanted to say thanks to God, what did he or could he do? The only thing man could do was to give up something precious to him/her in the form of one of their pride possessions like to sacrifice the biggest/best animal they had.

Abraham fully Trusted and Obeyed God with zero hesitation, “God will provide”:

22 After these things God tested Abraham and said to him, “Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.” 2 He said, “Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you.” 3 So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac. And he cut the wood for the burnt offering and arose and went to the place of which God had told him. 4 On the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes and saw the place from afar. 5 Then Abraham said to his young men, “Stay here with the donkey; I and the boy[a] will go over there and worship and come again to you.” 6 And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son. And he took in his hand the fire and the knife. So they went both of them together.

7 And Isaac said to his father Abraham, “My father!” And he said, “Here I am, my son.” He said, “Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?” 8 Abraham said, “God will provide for himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son.” So they went both of them together.

9 When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built the altar there and laid the wood in order and bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. 10 Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son. 11 But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven and said, “Abraham, Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.” 12 He said, “Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me.” 13 And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him was a ram, caught in a thicket by his horns. And Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. 14 So Abraham called the name of that place, “The Lord will provide”;^[b] as it is said to this day, “On the mount of the Lord it shall be provided.”^[c]



*15 And the angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time from heaven 16 and said, “By myself I have sworn, declares the Lord, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, 17 I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his[d] enemies, 18 and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice.” 19 So Abraham returned to his young men, and they arose and went together to Beersheba. And Abraham lived at Beersheba. - **Genesis 22:1-19***

Abraham was prepared to sacrifice his most precious for God AND trusted God.

So trust God with everything.

Although not part of the scope of this article, what did God sacrifice to save our souls and give us an infinite number of sand grains to live on after earth? Jesus!



37. YOUR PROBLEMS HAVE A PURPOSE:

“We do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal” - 2 Corinthians 4:16-18

One of the worst things in life brings out the best things in life!

What do I mean, well, studies have shown that during a War, there are much more cases of people coming out and helping others!

During the Ukraine war, many bordering countries opened their countries, arms and harts for the many refugees and funds flowed in not only for weapons, but humanitarian purposes. In times of need, many people take action for the good, so do not believe that there is only bad in bad, but actually good in many bad!

38. TO RECAP:

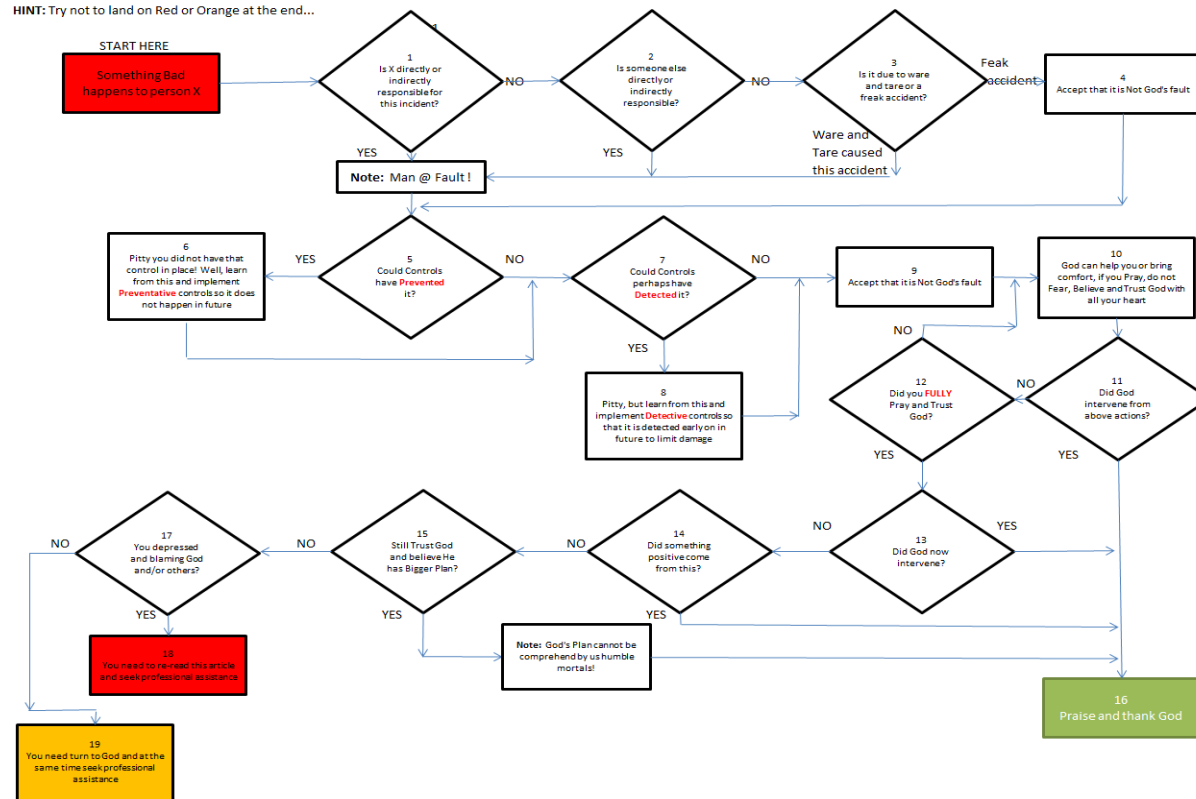
PARAGRAPH	SHORT NOTE
Our 5 senses (Paragraph 4)	It is our 5 senses that are often the ROOT cause of problems, because they causes us to want to sin
Maintaining a Balance (Paragraph 5)	Everything in nature and space tries to maintain a perfect BALANCE and so should we also. When we do too much of something or too little of something else, is also causes problems
Our Free will (Paragraph 6)	Another one that causes problems! Probably because many humans have weak SELF CONTROL
Arrogance (Paragraph 7)	What happens when humans are good at something or start to achieve things? Some become ARROGANT , often believing they are the reason of their achievement, start looking down on others and believe they do not need GOD
Who is (really) to blame (Paragraph 8)	When looking at what CAUSES problems, we see that probably 80% (80:20 principal) of all problems are caused by humans
It has to happen (Paragraph 9)	When it comes to MORTALITY , then all living things will DIE at some stage, some in a very short time like a Mayfly that lives for 24 hours, while Bristlecone Pine can live 5 000 years, but it will eventually die. It HAS to HAPPEN at some stage.
Ware and Tare (Paragraph 10)	If you own machines, cars, electronic devices or even a house, things do ware and tare and will CAUSE PROBLEMS at some stage
Accidents (Paragraph 11)	Accidents do happen, although the 80:20 principle yet again applies, because I believe that 80% are caused by someone, while 20% are probably real accidents. If you want to avoid accidents, you must stop living
Why me (Paragraph 12)	Why someone else?
On call Genie (Paragraph 13)	Do not expect God to be your Genie, ready to intervene and solve your problems upon your call
“Christians” take heed (Paragraph 14)	When seeking help, make sure you approach a real Christian and not a FALSE PROFIT , but the difference is very hard to identify, so be very careful
Tins and the inside (Paragraph 15)	Your body is experiencing problems, but what is more important?
We can actually handle it (Paragraph 16)	God will not give your problems you cannot handle! Humans are extremely adaptable! Just think of COVID and how we also changed and adapted
Bad is also good for you (Paragraph 17)	Did you know that when bad things happen to you, there could be positive things that come from that!?
Weekend away vs forever (Paragraph 18)	Our problems are actually short lived compared to life afterwards
Getting closer to GOD	When things are great, people tend to forget God. Forget they need God! So what happens when humans experience problems? That is

PARAGRAPH	SHORT NOTE
(Paragraph 19)	when people start praying all of a sudden and turn to God. God wants us to remain close to Him, in bad AND Good times.
Controls are needed (Paragraph 20)	Us humans MUST make an effort to limit problems from happening in the first place? We cannot expect doing dangerous things and expect God to protect or save us!
Lean on God (Paragraph 21)	When things go bad, know that you can always lean on God, He actually wants that
Trust God (Paragraph 22)	No matter how bad things are going, TRUST God, who will always be there for you
Pray, pray, pray (Paragraph 23)	This is said many times in the bible. This is the way to talk to God on a constant basis!
Do not fear (Paragraph 24)	This is also said many times. God wants us to trust him and NOT be afraid
Miracles do happen (Paragraph 25)	No matter how bad things look, miracles can still happen
God's Plan (Paragraph 26)	Always remember that God has a Plan, one that we cannot comprehend. If all else fails, go back to Trust God
Light at the end of the tunnel (Paragraph 27)	No matter how bad things look like on earth, there is light at the end of the tunnel
We know the results (Paragraph 28)	No matter how bad things look like on earth, know that in the end, God did win, because he actually already won!
What is awaiting us (Paragraph 29)	No matter how bad things look like on earth, there is beyond good things awaiting us!

So we are exposed to sin and we are weak. Our weakness causes problems, for us and/or for others. Humans are to blame for most of our problems, but some problems are due to wear and tear. When things go wrong, do not expect God to just solve your problems, especially if you are responsible for them. If your problems are physical, just remember that your body is less important than your soul. Whether physical or mental problems, note that we can actually handle it, bad can actually be good for us and it brings us closer to God. Also note that our problems are short lived on earth.

Have you implemented the necessary measures to stop or limit problems from occurring? If not, do not expect God to solve your problems, do not tempt God. If you however had measures in place or your problems happened accidentally, then lean on God and trust Him and talk to God via prayer on an ongoing basis. God also says many times that we must not fear, Trust Him. No matter how bad your situation looks like, know that God still performs miracles on a daily basis, but if that miracle does not happen, always remember that God has a bigger Plan with your situation that you cannot comprehend. There is however light at the end of the tunnel and we know that God has already won, so be positive because something special is awaiting us on day!

39. TO RECAP GRAPHICALLY DEPICTED:



40. A STILL BORN CHILD

Now let us tackle that above difficult topic with much more ease...

What is your first reaction? Well, probably SHOCK!

What next? You will probably NOT believe what happened, almost wanting to double check, because how can it be true?

Once it has sunk in, then the “WHY ME/US” will probably surface, causing anger at GOD and others!

Before you experience subsequent emotions such as going into a depressed state, it is here where you need consider what was shared above!

Abraham FULLY trusted God when God said he needs to sacrifice his son. His wife Sarah was 90 years old when she had Isaac now with a chance of losing their ONLY son, but in Genesis 17:16 God said that they would be the parents of many nations, so considering the following:

- They only had one child after many years;
- They tried for years prior to that;
- Sarah was already 90 years old with almost zero chance of having another.

BUT

The “but” is that God made a promise and Abraham TRUSTED God FULLY!

Abraham trusted that God had a PLAN, in fact, when Isaac asked him “...Where is the lamb for the burnt offering?...”, Abraham said that God will provide.

Yes, it is traumatic, but we cannot comprehend the bigger picture, we can only speculate. Perhaps that child would have suffered or had a difficult life later on, perhaps that child would have made the wrong decisions in life, joined a gang and their sole was lost, who knows...? **By God’s grace, that child had no opportunity to Sin...**

BOTTOM LINE: Considering all the Sections above, I hope you will respond a little different when something bad happens to you or someone close?

41. GLASS OR RUBBER BALL

Which one will you be?

I know what I am about to say may seem harsh, especially if you have gone through a tragedy, but it is a fact and critical that you grasp this:

How many marriages have fallen apart when a tragedy hit the family such as a child dying? One of the parents refuse to get over it and keep all the memories, keep all the child's items and go into depression while the other parent recover and they become incompatible.

After reading all the above it is clear that the body is actually nothing compared to the spirit and there is far better things awaiting the spirit, so do not be a glass, but a rubber ball!

What I mean by this is that if a glass falls, it shatters into hundreds of pieces and cannot be put together again, but a rubber ball takes the punch, gets squashed to the floor momentarily, but bounces back. If you a glass, you showing God that you do not trust him, do not see the bigger picture and do not believe in a better life after this one, **so if something bad happens to you or your family/friends, do not break and go into depression, but be a ball that bounces back!**

Another way our preacher put it is:

Are you a candle or a fire?

A candle is easily extinguished by a little wind!

A fire is strengthened by a little wind!

BOTTOM LINE: Be a fire when things go wrong, bounce back because if you have (proper) faith, you will know God is with you, God may have a bigger plan, things will change and life on earth is only temporally, it is what comes after that, that really matters.



ANNEXURE A

You may be familiar with the song below, but if not, go listen to it, but at the same time read the words below, especially those underlined that should give you HOPE:

Source: <https://bethelmusic.com/chords-and-lyrics/raise-a-hallelujah/>

*I raise a hallelujah
In the presence of my enemies
I raise a hallelujah
Louder than the unbelief
I raise a hallelujah*

*My weapon is a melody
I raise a hallelujah
Heaven comes to fight for me*

*I'm gonna sing in the middle of the storm
Louder and louder, you're gonna hear my praises roar
Up from the ashes hope will arise
Death is defeated, the King is alive*

*I raise a hallelujah
With everything inside of me
I raise a hallelujah
I will watch the darkness flee
I raise a hallelujah
In the middle of the mystery
I raise a hallelujah
Fear, you lost your hold on me*

*I'm gonna sing in the middle of the storm
Louder and louder, you're gonna hear my praises roar
Up from the ashes hope will arise
Death is defeated, the King is alive*

*Sing a little louder
Sing a little louder
Sing a little louder
Sing a little louder
Sing a little louder
Sing a little louder
Sing a little louder
Oh, sing a little louder*

*Sing a little louder
In the presence of my enemies
Sing a little louder
Louder than the unbelief
Sing a little louder
My weapon is a melody
Sing a little louder
Heaven comes to fight for me
Sing a little louder*



*I'm gonna sing in the middle of the storm
Louder and louder, you're gonna hear my praises roar
Up from the ashes hope will arise
Death is defeated, the King is alive*

*I'm gonna sing in the middle of the storm
Louder and louder, you're gonna hear my praises roar
Up from the ashes hope will arise
Death is defeated, the King is alive*

*I raise a hallelujah (hallelujah)
I raise a hallelujah (I raise my hallelujah)
I raise a hallelujah (I raise my hallelujah)
I raise a hallelujah*

Bad things happen to good people, *and the worst things happened to the best Person*. Jesus was the only truly Righteous One, yet He suffered more than we can imagine. We follow in His footsteps:

“If you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God. To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps. ‘He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.’ When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly” - [1 Peter 2:20–23](#).