

You Asked For It Why Do Bad Things Happen?

Bad things happen to us:

- Death

"A man named Lazarus was sick. He lived in Bethany with his sisters, Mary and Martha.... Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if only you had been here, my brother would not have died." [John 11:1, 21]

"Then God looked over all He had made, and He saw that it was very good!" [Genesis 1:31]

Pain was not a part of God's original creation.

"But when Jesus heard about it... He stayed where He was of the next two days." [John 11:4, 6]

- Delay

"Let us also go, that we may die with Him." [John 11:16]

- Doubt

Be careful who you listen to.

"The serpent was the shrewdest of all the wild animals the Lord God had made. One day he asked the woman, "Did God really say you must not eat the fruit from any of the trees in the garden?" [Genesis 3:1]

"Lord, the one You love is sick." [John 11:3]

"So He told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. And for your sakes, I'm glad I wasn't there, for now you will really believe. Come let's go see Him." [John 11:14-15]

1. God uses trials to shape us.

"Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles of any kind come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy." [James 1:2]

2. God uses trials to free us from what's bound us.

"And the dead man came out, His hands and feet bound in grave clothes, His face wrapped in a head cloth. Jesus told them, "Unwrap Him and let Him go!" [John 11:44]

Quit dressing like a dead person.

3. God hurts alongside of us. Run to Him.

"When Jesus saw her weeping and saw the other people wailing with her, a deep anger welled up within Him, and He was deeply troubled." [John 11:33]

"Jesus was still angry as He arrived at the tomb, a cave with a stone rolled across its entrance." [John 11:38]

"He was a wrestler stepping into the ring with death."
[John Calvin]

4. God's suffering was vicarious for you.

"He didn't just die on the cross for you, He died on the cross as though He were you."