



Sermon Outline
February 9, 2025
Pastor Bryan Myers

Why Would God Allow Tragedy and Suffering?

Something that's difficult to fully understand:

Why does tragedy _____ the faith of some yet _____ it in others?

Series Overview:

- 1. Is It Normal to Have Doubts?**
- 2. Is God Really Necessary?**
- 3. Isn't the Bible Full of Myths and Mistakes?**
- 4. Why Is Jesus Such a Big Deal?**
- 5. Why Would God Allow Tragedy & Suffering?**

The fact of suffering undoubtedly constitutes the single greatest challenge to the Christian faith, and has been in every generation. Its distribution and degree appear to be entirely random and therefore unfair. Sensitive spirits ask if it can possibly be reconciled with God's justice and love.

- John Stott

Observations concerning tragedy and suffering:

- 1. There is no reasonable explanation for that which is _____.**
- 2. Two people can go through nearly the same experience with very _____ responses.**
- 3. While pain is inevitable, misery is _____.**

Resources: *Trusting God: Even When Life Hurts* – Jerry Bridges, *Walking With God Through Pain and Suffering* – Timothy Keller, *Hope When It Hurts* – Kristen Wetherell, *Where Is God in All the Suffering?* – Amy Orr Ewing

*** Three mental constructs that can _____ faith instead of deconstructing it:**

- 1. While God undoubtedly allows it, He is not the _____ of evil and suffering.**

Genesis 6:5 - The Lord saw how great the wickedness of the human race had become on the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of the human heart was only evil all the time.

** You don't have to agree with God, but you do need to concede to Him.*

- 2. Though suffering is never pleasant, God can use it to your _____.**

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

*** Life doesn't just happen _____ you. It also happens _____ you.**

** God took the worst thing, the horrific and undeserved death of the innocent Son of God on the cross, and turned it into the best thing that has ever happened.*

- 3. The day is coming when suffering will _____, evil will be punished and the innocent vindicated.**

Psalms 73:16-17 - When I tried to understand all this, it troubled me deeply till I entered the sanctuary of God; then I understood their final destiny.

- * God will have the _____.**
- * The question that haunts us is " _____?"**
- * The best question, is not "why?" but " _____?"**

** In light of this tragedy, in light of this great loss, in light of this great grief that weighs so heavily **what do I believe and what should I do about it?***

- * We all get to choose if our life experiences will cause us to become _____ or _____.**