

Reveal – “Everything Happens for a Reason”

Week 4 – October 31, 2021

Scripture: Job 42:2; Psalm 139:16; Proverbs 19:21; Romans 8:28;
and John 9:1-3, 16:33, 16:22, 16:7

Grab your Bible and a few people to connect with. Look up the verses below and share your thoughts. It's that easy!

Share: Life throws us curve balls with unexpected and unwanted circumstances. Share a time in your life when you were hit by a curve ball.

Read the scripture noted above together: Take turns reading if you prefer. Enjoy the different Bible translations we each read.

Discuss the following context:

One of the most typical responses people have with themselves, family, friends, and neighbors when something happens in their life is “everything happens for a reason”. This can be especially hard when evil, hardships, and loss enter our lives. This phrase can bring more questions than comfort. It is not used in the Bible but there are verses that lead one to believe this phrase could be true. Does God have a reason for everything that happens in this world? Is God really in complete control? Does “everything happen for a reason” or does this phrase mislead people about the heart of God?

Share your thoughts about following questions:

1. How do expressions like “everything happens for a reason”, “God is in control”, or “God has a purpose in this” make you feel when you are experiencing pain, confusion, frustration, anxiety, or doubt?
2. Behind this way of thinking is the belief that God is the casual agent of our pain and suffering, and that God wants everything that happens to happen, for reasons only He may know. The result? It is hard to receive comfort from and trust a God who's particular will for your life includes intentionally bringing these kinds of things into your life “for a reason”.
 - a. How does this thinking align with or contradict the character and nature of God?
 - b. Does the Bible teach this way of looking at God and life's circumstances? Read Job 42:2, Psalm 139:16, Proverbs 19:21, Romans 8:28, and discuss.
3. When Jesus heals a blind man (John 9:1-34), He is asked why the man was born blind? Jesus said “this happened” so God would be glorified. Did God intentionally have a man suffer with blindness his whole life so that he could be healed by Jesus, in order that God would get the glory?
 - a. This is where ideas about God influence how the Bible is translated. When Jesus said “this happened”, a more literal translation could be that the “this happened” referenced not the man being born blind, but the healing! In other words (verses 2-3): *Who sinned that this man was born blind? Neither. But so that God may be glorified, I am going to heal him!* How does this change where God's purpose is?
 - b. Trouble is attributed to our broken world. Read John 16:33, John 16:22, and John 16:7. Where is God when we suffer in this world?

Pray together: Ask each other to share what is on your heart today. Thank God that when life gets hard, we have a God who comes into the mess and pain to help us find our way in and through it. Thank God that nothing will separate us from His love and presence. Ask God to let your pain and difficulty draw you closer to Him, so that He can support and help you in your time of need.