

Why Did God Let My Loved One Die?

Many people become angry and turn away from God when a loved one dies. They ask, "Why did God allow this to happen?" Essentially, they are saying that God could have stopped it but He chose not to. This response is flawed. This thinking stems from religious tradition that has infiltrated the minds of billions of people. It's the belief that *God is in control of everything, no matter what happens.*

Is that true? Was God in control of what you ate today? Was He controlling what clothes you chose to wear? Is God really behind the heinous crimes, betrayal, murder and barbaric acts that happen each day throughout the earth? The answer is no—absolutely not.

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Yet we commonly hear clergy at funerals make ignorant statements such as, "God chose to take him home" or "God's ways are higher than our ways" or "God had a reason." How does this make the family or children feel as they stand there grieving their loved one? They will likely grow up hating or turning away from God because they were told He was responsible for the death of the person they love. These harmful words have produced more atheists than we can imagine.

Who wants to serve a God who kills little children or a God who inflicts people with a disease that ultimately kills them? The Bible has dozens of verses claiming God is good, so something doesn't add up. God is good. The devil is evil. In John 10:10 (NKJV), Jesus said, "The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly."

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Jesus drew a clear distinction between what He came to do and what Satan does. Stealing, killing and destruction do not come from God. There is a very active spiritual realm, whether you believe it or not. I choose to believe what Jesus said. Jesus refers to Himself as the “good” shepherd, not the bad shepherd.

In Romans 1, the Bible tells us God gave people up to their evil desires because they rejected Him. It says, “God gave them over to a reprobate mind” (Rom. 1:28b, KJV) and “People became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart[']s [were] darkened” (Rom. 1:21b).

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