

Discussion Questions...(God vs Satan, Round 1)

1. This last week's message was pretty heavy. Jim made the statement that one day, every one of us will face our own, personal tsunami or 9/11 that will cause us to look to the object of our faith and ask, "Why? What's going on? What were you thinking?" Looking back over your life, is there a time you have found yourself in a place like this?
2. The big question on the table is this, "Can you trust God?" Respond to these statements...

Either, God is all-loving but not all-powerful and he can't help...or he is all powerful but not all-loving and he won't help. How can God be both all-loving and all-powerful and not intervene in life disasters?

3. Does the idea that God "allows" bad things to happen rather than "causes" bad things to happen help you find and answer to "why" bad things happen? Why or why not?
4. If there is no answer that will fully satisfy the "why?" question or make us feel better about tragedy, is "who is God?" a better question? Why or why not? Why is answering this question a better path to follow?
5. God never changes. He is exactly the same as he was in the first chapter of the Bible. Look up these verses in the Bible and apply them to the disasters of life. For better understanding, read the entire chapter where they are found.

Genesis 50: 20 - You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.

1 Chronicles 16: 34 - Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever.

Psalms 34: 8 - Taste and see that the LORD is good; blessed is the man who takes refuge in him.

Psalms 100: 5 - For the LORD is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.

Nahum 1: 7 - The LORD is good, a refuge in times of trouble. He cares for those who trust in him,

Romans 7: 15 - I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do. **16**And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the law is good. **17**As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me. **18**I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature.^[c] For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. **19**For what I do is not the good I want to do; no, the evil I do not want

to do—this I keep on doing. **20**Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it. **21**So I find this law at work: When I want to do good, evil is right there with me. **22**For in my inner being I delight in God's law; **23**but I see another law at work in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within my members. **24**What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? **25**Thanks be to God—through Jesus Christ our Lord!

James 1: 12 Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him. **13**When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; **14**but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed.

James 1: 16 Don't be deceived, my dear brothers. **17**Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.

6. So, if God is good, yet life is still sometimes painful and unfair...how are you (or are you) able to say both are true...God is good...and life is hard?
7. Looking ahead: This weekend, Jim is going to be teaching about the entrance of evil into the world, the existence and purpose of Satan. In your opinion, why do you think God continues to allow evil/Satan to attack our lives?
8. As you close in prayer, if it's possible, look back at the answers to question number one and pray for those things using the thoughts and truths found in the Bible verses we read together.