

7 Wonderings of the World

Part #2 – “Why Do Bad Things Happen to Good People?”

Sunday April 22, 2007 / Pastor Dave Larmour

Q – “**Is God poison?**” (Cover of Maclean’s Magazine – April 16, 2007)

- ✓ Virginia Tech. / Cho Seung-Hui
- ✓ Tsunami / December 2004
- ✓ Nick Vujicic / born without arms and legs

1. The Source of Suffering ...

Q – If God is all-powerful and completely loving, then how can he allow or permit evil in the world?

- ✓ ‘My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?’ (Matthew 27:46)
- ✓ ‘What’ questions vs. ‘Why’ questions

a. The free-will choices of people
(Romans 8:18-23)

i) **Spiritual / Moral implications**

Q - Why is there so much evil in the world?

ii) **Cosmological / Biological impairments**

- ✓ Romans 8:22-23
- b. The opposition of our Adversary
(2 Corinthians 12:7-10)
- c. The activity of God (James 1:2-4)

2. The Purpose of Suffering ...

- a. To leverage us off this world
(Romans 8:18)
- b. To reveal our hearts
(Job 2:9)
- c. To be able to help others in the future
(1 Corinthians 9:22)
- d. To assist us in seeking God
(2 Corinthians 12:8)
- e. To teach us and mature us in our faith
(James 1:2-4)

3. The Challenge ... So Now What?

- a. We need to resist the urge to closely connect the circumstances of our life with the level of God’s **love** for us.
- b. We need to make an advanced decision to trust God ... ‘even in the **dark**’
- c. We will need to take **responsibility** for situations and circumstances that are of our own making.
- d. We can give ourselves permission to **question** God when we don’t understand what’s happening.
- e. We should be quick to remind ourselves of our limited **perspective** this side of heaven.