

Shoot Christians Say "Everything Happens for a Reason"

5.6.18

If you could cure one disease, which one would you cure?

What is your gut reaction to the phrase, "Everything happens for a reason?"

Some people mean by that phrase that "God causes everything to happen."

A leading pastor/teacher/author - a very influential guy, John Piper, says: "All things - good, bad, ugly, and horrific - are ordained, guided, and governed by the Creator and Sustainer of the universe."

What is your response to that view?

If you like it or agree with it, why?

If you don't like it or agree with it, why, not?

Do tragedies like the Parkland shooting, the recent tornadoes, reflect the will of God? Did God want to stop them but couldn't? Could God stop them but didn't want to?

How do you explain/understand Isaiah 45:7?

Suffering has been defined as "whenever we are not in control."

How does our need for control lead to the statement, "Everything happens for a reason?"

Another way to look at the phrase is this: "We want to make sense out of our suffering." We want meaning from it.

How can we make sense out of suffering?

In what ways did Jesus suffer?

How did Jesus' suffering end up?

How does Jesus' suffering help us to make sense of our suffering?

Read Matthew 8:13, 8:15. What do these verses tell us about responding to others' suffering?

Solidarity: Jesus is in solidarity with our suffering. We can be in solidarity with others' suffering.