



Part 3-If God is Good Why is There So Much Bad?

Where Does the Bad Come From?

1. The Power of Evil in the World

“But there is another power within me that is at war with my mind. This power makes me cave into the sin that is within me.” Rom. 7:23

“Be alert, your enemy the devil prowls around like a lion, looking for someone to devour, resist him, stand firm in faith” I Peter 5:8

2. Free Will & Sin

“So the trouble is not with God’s will, for it is spiritual and good. The trouble is with me, for I am all too human, a slave to sin. I really don’t understand myself, for I want to do what is right, but I don’t do it. Instead I do what I hate. But if I know that what I am doing is wrong, this shows that I agree that God’s will is good” Romans 7:15-16

What Is Our Answer For Dealing With Bad Times

1. Accept that You Are Not Ultimately in Control

*Cease from sighs and murmuring, Sing His loving grace,
This thing means thy furthering, To a wealthy place.
From thy fears He’ll give release, In acceptance lieth peace.
Hannah Hurnard*

2. Anchor Deep in Your Faith in Jesus Christ

“Oh what a miserable person I am! Who will free me from this life dominated by sin. Thank God the answer is Jesus Christ our Lord.” Romans 7:24-25

“For you have not received a spirit of fear, instead you have received God’s spirit when he adopted you as his children.” Romans 8:15



*“What shall we say about such wonderful things as these? If God is for us, who can ever be against us?...Can anything ever separate us from Christ’s love? Does it mean he no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity...or are in danger or threatened... **NO!!** Despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ who loved us.” Romans 8:31 & 35-37*

Think about it



Either in your small group or on your own, take some time to think about and answer the following questions. Remember it is always good to start this time with prayer.

It's now clear that COVID-19 is a serious global pandemic, and all necessary precautions should be taken. Still, C. S. Lewis's words—written 72 years ago—ring with some relevance for us. Just replace “atomic bomb” with “coronavirus.”

“In one way we think a great deal too much of the atomic bomb. “How are we to live in an atomic age?” I am tempted to reply: “Why, as you would have lived in the sixteenth century when the plague visited London almost every year, or as you would have lived in a Viking age when raiders from Scandinavia might land and cut your throat any night; or indeed, as you are already living in an age of cancer,... an age of paralysis, ... an age of motor accidents.”

In other words, do not let us begin by exaggerating the novelty of our situation. Believe me, dear sir or madam, you and all whom you love were already assured of death before the atomic bomb was invented: ... It is perfectly ridiculous to go about whimpering and drawing long faces because the scientists have added one more chance of painful and premature death to a world which already bristled with such chances and in which death itself was not a ch, but a certainty.

This point I want to make is this: The first action to be taken is to pull ourselves together. If we are all going to be destroyed by an atomic bomb, let that bomb when it comes find us doing sensible and human things—praying, working, teaching, reading, listening to music, bathing the children, playing tennis, chatting to our friends over a pint and a game of darts—not huddled together like frightened sheep and thinking about bombs. They may break our bodies (a microbe can do that) but they need not dominate our minds.”

1. Discuss or think about the first impressions you have about the above quote from C.S. Lewis. Then read it again out loud and think a bit more deeply about it. Share some of those deeper thoughts or ideas.
2. What do you think about all the information coming out about the coronavirus? Does it cause you to worry, feel unsure?
3. What can you remember from the sermon outline that will help you deal not only with the coronavirus, but any bad situation that may come into your life?
4. What does it mean to “anchor deep” in your faith in Jesus Christ?