



Can't Make Sense Of It?

“And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son...” ~Romans 8:28-29

Painful trials, vicious personal tragedy, temptation, sin, personal attacks of different kinds, stinging setbacks or unexpected reversals.. hugenormus loss, smaller ones, stumbling here and there, embarrassing failure—what have you been through? Has your life been just like a bed of roses or something else?

Got any really ugly stuff like these things in your past?

Perhaps you’ve had a bad day today, a bad month, a really bad decade, or thus far.. a really bad life? I really hope you are having a good day, but I want to encourage you.. just in case.. not to give up or become despondent inside, hopeless or given to self-pity. Remember the eleventh commandment (extra biblical): Thou shalt not sweat it.

In Christ, your best days are indeed ahead of you ..yup, unto the furtherance of His Kingdom and unto His eternal glory as you live wholeheartedly for Him!

I wanna tell you about a suffering soul-winner, a local church pastor that was trying his best to make some sense out of his family’s darkest, most horrific tragedy.

He was emotionally besieged as you could imagine if you were there, yup, basically coming up empty handed and without words or any relief for a time. He just couldn’t do it on his own and he started to pray for God’s strength. You see, his son had committed suicide.

Ever met anyone who has lost a loved one by such a uber-selfish sin? Man, it breaks your heart in half!

There were things that this fisherman of sorts knew and felt he understood ..and then many other things that he just didn’t get. Who could? I know that I wouldn’t get it if I were in his shoes.

How could God allow this to happen when He is all-powerful and all-knowing? Couldn’t He have overridden or blocked the serious folly of his self-destructive son ..you know, early enough?

Many ministers totally leave God and ditch the ministry after going through such brutal and merciless circumstances. Many Christians backslide and stay angry at the Lord for a lifetime after experiencing similar pain. I know some who have and others who simply refused to. **Real Christians are not immune to the painful things of this sin-cursed planet, though a thousand glitzy televangelists try persuading us otherwise.**

But after ten days this one believing minister did actually return to his pulpit. Under such massive duress, he read his text from the familiar words of Paul found in Romans 8:28, ***“And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.”***

Yeah, visibly shaken, radically care-worn, shell-shocked and struggling for some composure, the minister said:

“I cannot make my son's suicide fit into this passage. It's impossible for me to see how anything good can come out of it. Yet I realize that I only see in part. I only know in part. It's like the miracle of the shipyard. Almost every part of our great oceangoing vessels are made of steel. If you take any single part—be it a steel plate out of the hull or the huge rudder—and throw it into the ocean, it will sink. Steel doesn't float! But when the shipbuilders are finished, when the last plate has been riveted in place, then that massive steel ship is virtually unsinkable. Taken by itself, my son's suicide is senseless. Throw it into the sea of Romans 8:28 and it sinks. Still, I believe that when the Eternal Shipbuilder has finally finished, when God has worked out his perfect design, even this senseless tragedy will somehow work to our eternal good.”

Yes sir, even this tragedy will be put together to serve the high purpose of the God who experienced His own son being murdered at Calvary. It's because of faith—this pastor had a vital relationship with Jesus Christ and gained new supernatural comfort and strength from Him. Evil things occur in our lives! And God doesn't make the evil magically turn into good, but He does make the evil work together for good—for our good!

For the committed believer there are no permanent tragedies. For the committed unbeliever there are no permanent triumphs. ~Erwin Lutzer

“Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: but rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when His glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.” ~1 Peter 4:12-13

“My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces...”
~James 1:2

Perhaps you've had things head south quickly in a similar way as that pastor did? There are no cute clichés that can help during such loss, but if the outlook ain't good at all—if you've had a really bad day, a bad month or a really bad decade—then please try the up-look! It is never bad looking up to Christ during any kind of weather. Please know that the Lord has not been caught off guard nor is He surprised by what has hurt you. He has not fallen off His throne and He, in spite of the atrocious-ness of it all, does have things under control. You can really trust Him through the turbulent waters you've found yourself in!

“Joseph said to them, ‘Do not be afraid, for am I in the place of God? But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive. Now therefore, do not be afraid..’” ~Genesis 50:19-20

“Do not be afraid of sudden terror, nor of trouble from the wicked when it comes; for the Lord will be your confidence, and will keep your foot from being caught.” ~ Proverbs 3:25-26

“You have turned for me my mourning into dancing; You have put off my sackcloth and clothed me with gladness, to the end that my glory may sing praise to You and not be silent.” ~Psalm 30:11-12

Question: I by no means hope that you go through any pain, especially serious pain like that minister had to endure, but what price are you willing to pay.. what suffering are you willing to persist through to become all that God intends for you to become? As you abide (rather than strive) in Christ, he will make you stronger! Moses in the Old Testament suffered huge setbacks and he sacrificed to obey the Lord. I think that Mo could easily be the “poster child” for ministry sacrifice for every generation, don't you?

Think about it. Moses grew up with a silver spoon in his mouth so to speak—like a son of the Pharaoh of Egypt. As a boy prince in that land, he could fully enjoy every privilege, high-end perk and luxurious pleasure of the great palace where the king lived. But Moses chose to risk all of that upscale royal finery—the glitzy posh extras that we can merely read about—in order to try to rescue his people. And then as a result of him giving it his best, he lost EVERYTHING!

Can you just imagine.. every single thing that he had gradually grown accustomed to enjoying—out the window!

After murdering an Egyptian dude, Mo faced total exile in a bone dry Midian desert far away. And for forty long years he had to live with this colorless bland wilderness mundanity, that is until he finally learned that the Lord of the whole universe had intended to use him, God's way, to rescue an oppressed people of bondage.

Hey, you know this story! By that time in history, Moses had undergone the bending (Oh my) and the b-r-e-a-k-i-n-g (OUCH!) and the remaking (YIKES!)—the grueling customization process of God ..required especially for him to become used in a noble Way. The Lord must have his servants humble, pure-hearted, meek, prayerful, straightforward, holy, practical, believing and obedient!

As a fisher of men and of women, of boys and of girls. . . yes, of very valuable people . . . you may never have to leave your own country or be forced to lose all your possessions like Mo did. But you can be sure that leading others closer to.. or directly up to Jesus Christ and on into righteousness through Him.. will have its price.

I mean it's free for all those entering the Kingdom—no charge at all—but let me explain further.

Some Christians today are still recruited into becoming cross-cultural missionaries and all others into becoming home-missionaries is a sense ..by the Holy Spirit, and some are literally called to a lifestyle like Moses had ..and they gladly obey.

The Gospel is free, but it will cost you everything we hear. Sure it's true; we cling to Jesus Christ as our only God even when ..or if.. all else is torn away by the malicious circumstances of life or maybe simply due to the choices and preferences of others.

It could happen to you, and would you be ready for such rending?

You've got to give up to go up they say! That sounds kinda like a cute little money-motivated motivational speaker's mantra, but the Bible does teach us that if you hang on to your life, you will lose it.

Jesus clearly said, ***“For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the Gospel's will save it”*** (Mk. 8:35). Yup, in another Gospel account He worded it this way: ***“He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life”*** (Jn. 12:25, nkjv. Also see Matt. 16:25, Lk. 9:24, 10:39, 17:33). I know one thing, if I was to take a good blessing that God gave me and cling to it as my idol putting it ahead of all things, what was intended to be good and a blessing for me would in the end turn out to be a real bummer—a curse if you—will for me. And sometimes things aren't always as they appear.

Sometimes it's kinda hard to tell if it's a real bummer or a real blessing...

A man named Jim was visiting with his neighbor Kevin at the fence. He said, “My son Bob was riding horseback in a gallop on the track at our ranch the other day and then our horse got majorly spooked by a renegade squirrel and Bob fell off the horse and hurt his leg pretty bad. Now he wears a cast.”

Kevin, the neighbor said, “Oh no, that's bad! I'm so sorry to hear that.”

Jim asked, “How do you know?”

“But then listen.. an Army recruiting officer came to town”, said Jim, “to take my son as well as the other boys in town off to war, but because Bob had a broken leg the man didn’t take my son along with them.”

The neighbor said, “Oh man, that’s good.”

And Jim asked, “How do you know?”

“Then later, we heard that the army platoon that Bob would have served in marched up to take the enemy’s city far away and they easily conquered it. And each soldier in that platoon was given a large piece of land in the nearby city as their booty and reward, but my son wasn’t among them to receive anything.”

Kevin, the neighbor said, “Oh no, that’s bad.”

But Jim asked, “How do you know?”

“Then upon their return home, the Tax-man arrived on the scene to tax all of those soldiers for their newly acquired land and after each soldier paid him in full, there really wasn’t anything left. They all were made broke by the new administration’s tax laws, but my son received money back from paying his taxes. It was a rare Government break that he got for lost work.”

“Oh man, that’s good.” said Jim who was listening even more intently.

“How do you know, Jim?”

“Another thing about it was that a wealthy philanthropist who happened to be a veteran from New York ended up hearing about all the soldiers and their homecoming plight. And he gave billions plus to reimburse each of them for the taxes that they each paid out to Uncle Sam. But Bob by that time, had missed so much work that the freak Government benefit with it’s red-tape stipulations actually evolved into a Government liability and bummer for him—he couldn’t even make ends meet that year.”

Kevin, the neighbor said, “Oh no, that’s bad.”

And Jim asked, “How do you know?”

“But now we have new laws and a new administration in office due to a zealous grass-roots movement that wasn’t related to any party, and this year Bob has started a new company with a man that he met at the doctors office. Together they produced an ultra strong, light weight, new kind of cast that Doctors really love to work with and Bob is quickly growing rich!”

Well, I could go on and on...

What you originally think is a total drag, vain suffering, very problematic, a huge bummer... something that should only happen to others.. could eventually bring joy and peace to you. How refreshing would that be?

What we think is a real negative thing could actually surprise us and deliver a blessing into our lives! God in His grace and mercy often surprises His people in such a way! Yup, what we often think is bad, can turn out to be good, and visa versa. We gotta kinda be ready for that.

For God is good, He loves you dearly! He always has your best interests in mind and please never forget that Romans 8:28 is still in effect! When was the last time you looked at this passage in it's own context? God wants to make you more like His Son Jesus!

Q. Maybe you haven't ever held any heavy parts of a ship before they were built into the finished seafaring vessel. But have you ever seen the inside of an antique watch that still works as it is in the process of ticking away? There are very delicate micro-levers and precision swiss-do-hickies (the pros know the real names of these parts—I sure don't), and lots of fragile things running in circular patterns while other mechanisms are going this way and that.. all crazy-like, in the opposite direction.

Have you ever felt like you were really progressing forwards in the sunshine like clockwork with the blessing of God on your life and then, all of a sudden the rug got pulled out from under your feet? Things are going a certain way but then, unreasonably start running the other way—in a direction that just seem wrong and crazy. This life can be so unpredictable.

Maybe it was a blessing in disguise when you lost that girlfriend or that investment. Maybe God knew at this point that you really couldn't handle wealth and then allowed it to be taken from you. Hey, Father knows best—He knows more about it all.. whatever happened to you.

Man, it's hard to believe that when you look closely at a time piece like a watch and examine its face with the hands functioning, that all that complexity of backwards and forwards motion can actually work together for good to bring about such order. It's a practical helpful tool for many people. Well, our times are in God hands and He can work all the apparent-bad and apparent-good things together for good in your life! He can bring positive order out of all the apparent disorder of your world.

Are you [born anew and in His direct will](#)? You can be today—right now!

My wish is that you get blessed, blessed, blessed ..in the direct will of God and then go share the Good News with others so that they will get blessed as well. But it's my sincere prayer that when crazy things happen that you really don't understand at all and everything looks uber-disastous.. that you'll still trust the Lord to work it all together for His glory ..for all the people involved! Hang in there tight with Jesus. He isn't finished with what He's been working on in you!

Have a prayer request or some questions about knowing God ..and how to properly walk in Jesus Christ? At fish4souls.org click "[Contact](#)" and let us know! Perhaps we can help. Follow. [Facebook.com/ShareJesus](https://www.facebook.com/ShareJesus) or at [Twitter.com/kurtwvs](https://twitter.com/kurtwvs)

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