



Everything Happens for a Reason

NorthRidge Church

Rev. Terrill Gilley

July 10, 2016

Does Everything Happen for a Reason?

3 Different Approaches to Help Answer This:

1. _____ approach: Yes:: _____ and _____ as a natural _____.
2. _____ approach: No:: Everything is _____ and without _____.
3. _____: Yes...and No:: There is a _____ but not all things _____.

Living a life “_____ purpose” may not mean that *everything* has to have a _____ purpose or reason.

4 Certainties in Uncertain Circumstances

1. _____ (v. 26) - “likewise” cf. to context (vv. 18, 22, 23)
2. _____ (vv. 26-27) Intercedes, empathizes (“groanings”) (cf. vv. 22-23; 2 Cor. 5:2, 4)
3. _____ (The **reason** for struggle) (vv. 28-30)

Content:

- “All things”, not “every thing”
- “For good”, lit. “works into good”

Conditions: It is for...

- those who _____ God
- those who are _____ according to _____ (cf. Eph. 1:11)

Conclusion: (cf. 1 Peter 1:1-2) [sanctification process]

Foreknowledge→Predestination→Calling→Justification→Glorification

4. _____ (v. 31)

The Takeaway:

- Struggle is _____ (both individually AND corporately). *Develop a community who will walk with you.*
- God is _____ for you (cf. 8:26; Jn. 17:20; Heb. 7:25). *Even when you have no idea as to what to do, He knows and is already interceding.*
- Regardless of whether we are able to understand the _____ of a specific circumstance/circumstances, those who are in Christ have an _____ “_____” result.
- _____ will not allow us to be defeated; He is _____ us. *Not only will He not fail, but He also protects us according to His divine purposes.*

Truth for Life

For the week of July 10, 2016

(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

1. Read John 9:1-2. Consider the phrase, “Everything happens for a reason.” Have you ever said this to explain a difficult situation? How was that platitude received? Maybe someone recently said this to you in a difficult time; did it seem to help or hinder in that situation?
2. The Bible tells us that Jesus and the Holy Spirit pray for us (Romans 8:26; Jn. 17:20; Heb. 7:25). Does this understanding influence your ability to make it through a difficult situation?
3. Oftentimes, the spiritually established person will discern the potential for God to use a difficult situation to bring Him glory and define what is “good” for the person they are speaking with. Does this understanding give permission to speak this verse into the life of a sufferer? Considering the limitations imposed upon us in Romans 8, should you ever share this with an unbeliever?
4. If all things work together “for/into good” for those who love God and are called according to His purpose, our role is to become obedient, maturing believers. God’s role is to develop all things into good. Have you faced struggles in life that have never had an apparent purpose? How did you come to the place in your life that you were okay with not knowing?
5. Whether or not we assign reason to an event, God is able to use it for a greater purpose. However, this does not excuse us from looking for ways to get involved in God’s work. Read John 5:17, 19-20 and discuss the work you see God doing around you. Do you think He is using a specific circumstance to accomplish this work? Do you think this work could be done without that circumstance?

Action Steps:

- Look around you and consider who may be in the midst of a struggle. Whether or not either of you understand the reason for it, take a few moments and pray *with* them, asking God for peace, comfort, and assurance of His eternal purpose amidst our uncertainty. If you are in the middle of such a struggle, ask someone to pray with you.
- When you are overwhelmed this week (to the point that words cannot express your hurt or weariness and all you can do is breathe a stressful sigh), recognize the Holy Spirit is interceding on your behalf. Thank Him in that moment.
- Consider the process of sanctification mentioned in Romans 8:29-31 and its present and future implications in your life. Pray and ask God to show you how He is shaping you through the journey.

Memory Verse

And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.

-Romans 8:28 (NKJV)



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Does Everything Happen for a Reason?

3 Different Approaches to Help Answer This:

1. **Scientific** approach: Yes:: **Cause** and **Effect** as a natural **occurrence**.
2. **Secular** approach: No:: Everything is **random** and without **purpose**.
3. **Spiritual approach**: Yes...and No:: There is a **greater purpose** but not all things merit **spiritual explanation/understanding**.

Living a life “**with purpose**” may not mean that *everything* has to have a **divine purpose or reason**.

4 Certainties in Uncertain Circumstances

1. **Suffering** (v. 26) - “likewise” cf. to context (vv. 18, 22, 23)
2. **Spirit** (vv. 26-27) Intercedes, empathizes (“groanings”) (cf. vv. 22-23; 2 Cor. 5:2, 4)
3. **Sanctification** (The **reason** for struggle) (vv. 28-30)

Content:

- “All things”, not “every thing”
- “For good”, lit. “works into good”

Conditions: It is for...

- those who **love** God
- those who are **called** according to **His purpose** (cf. Eph. 1:11)

Conclusion: (cf. 1 Peter 1:1-2) [sanctification process]

Foreknowledge→Predestination→Calling→Justification→Glorification

4. **Security** (v. 31)

The Takeaway:

- Struggle is **inevitable** (both individually AND corporately). *Develop a community who will walk with you.*
- God is **praying** for you (cf. 8:26; Jn. 17:20; Heb. 7:25). *Even when you have no idea as to what to do, He knows and is already interceding.*
- Regardless of whether we are able to understand the **reason** of a specific circumstance/circumstances, those who are in Christ have an **overall “good”** result.
- **God** will not allow us to be defeated; He is **for** us. *Not only will He not fail, but He also protects us according to His divine purposes.*

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