

Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or make the tree bad and its fruit bad, for the tree is known by its fruit.

Matthew 12:33

Store In My Heart

Judges 2:18-19

When the Lord raised up judges for them, the Lord was with the judge and delivered them from the hand of their enemies all the days of the judge; for the Lord was moved to pity by their groaning because of those who oppressed and afflicted them. But it came about when the judge died, that they would turn back and act more corruptly than their fathers, in following other gods to serve them and bow down to them; they did not abandon their practices or their stubborn ways.

This is a good summary of the book of Judges. Israel did not remove the wicked people of the land and they were a constant influence for evil. Time after time God helped but they refused to follow.

Are we any better if we keep slipping away from the confines of God's Word into sin?



Is Everything God's Will?

Gardner Hall

Is everything that happens God's will?

After the death of a child, a horrible mishap or any other tragedy there are always some who say, "It was the will of God." Is that statement always true?

It Depends!

Yes... It is the will of God to permit tragedies and trials. Everything that happens is permitted by him.

No... However, God doesn't want everything He permits! There is a subtle but important difference between permitting something and wanting it to happen!

Illustrations

God did not want the Israelites to divorce, but he permitted it because of the hardness of their hearts (**Matthew 19:8**).

God did not want ancient people to have more than one wife (**Genesis 2:24**), but regulated it when Israel was a primitive society (**Deuteronomy 21:15-17**).

God did not want Israel to have a king (**2Samuel 10:17-19**), but tolerated it and even had his prophets anoint them.

God does not want anyone to rebel against Him and be lost (**2Peter 3:9**), and yet gives men the free will to do it.

Often Christian parents will allow their teenage children to do something that they don't necessarily want them to do, so that they will learn to face the consequences of their actions.

I can think of two Biblical reasons why God allows things to happen that He doesn't necessarily want:

(1) He wants to give us free will (**Deuteronomy 30:15-19**). He wants us to have the freedom to choose. He doesn't want us to make bad choices but He allows them.

(2) He allows tragedies because He doesn't want us to become too attached to this world that has become corrupted by sin. Rather, He wants us to prove our love by learning to deal with trials and then have eternal life with Him (**2Corinthians 4:17**).

Careful with our words!

Whenever a child dies or someone suffers horribly, we need to be careful before saying, "God wanted it." Yes, God allows trials and tragedies, as in the case of Job, but that doesn't mean that He wants them. When we suffer, let's blame Satan and the curses that come upon our world because of sin. Let's never blame God!

(Brother Hall does well in reminding us of the difference between permitting or tolerating something and having a desire for it. What God wants is for men to faithfully follow His Word so that they can be with Him for all eternity. Mankind in his desire to do whatever he wants gets in the way of this plan of God. There will always be consequences to following our own path since we cannot always see where it will lead. Wickedness and deterioration are often root causes of much of our trouble. Of course, as the Preacher says, *"time and chance happen to them all."* (**Ecclesiastes 9:11-14**) Not everything is the fault of God. He only wants good for us. DLH)

For Our Information

Contact Us

We want opportunities to speak with others about the Lord.

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Gloria Hurst starts radiation treatments January 22.

Paula Laubach is considering Single Level ACDF surgery for her vertebrae problems.

Alaina Babcock is feeling much better as she recovers from covid.

David & Paula Laubach's daughter, **Deana** was to possibly get tubes and staples removed Tuesday, but she had to go to the emergency room Saturday for scans and lab work for possible infection.

Ruben & Brenda Keisler should be docking today and returning home by Tuesday.

Alaina Adcock is working this weekend.

Shannon Soliday will be in Indiana for much of this week.

Sunday Evening - **Esther 5:5**. Wednesday - **2Peter 2:4**.

Dan has login information for the building wifi network.

We seek only to serve God according to His Will!

