

River of Life MCC Resources

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Frequently Asked Questions

FAQ: If there is a God why do bad things happen?

If we are given free will, then why do we assume that God will override that free will and make decisions for us? We have choices in life, for example whether to hurt someone, ruin our environment, break the law; the consequences of these will have a knock on effect. Having a God will not stop these things happen but I do believe that God sits in these situations with us and loves us through them. There are some things that happen that do not seem to be a consequence of anything and it is here that I have faith in God to help me understand why.

Catherine

No-one really knows the answer to this. May be we can take comfort in the Bible passage “The whole creation groans as if in the pangs of childbirth”. The mother’s confinement and the pains of labour are fully rewarded by the joy of her new infant. We see only a small part of the picture, and God is greater than we can ever imagine!

Brian

Well maybe that’s got something to do with the issue of free will? Perhaps, on reflection, one of God’s less useful ideas! However, it is the nature of humanity to destroy itself and to wreak havoc and destruction on the natural world which God has ordained them responsible for. In the words of a very old Native American leader ‘We did not weave the web of life, we are merely a strand in it, what we do to the web, we do to ourselves.’ There is always the issue of what our beloved insurance companies call ‘acts of God’ – which seems a little unjust somehow. As if God would deliberately bring devastation on that which God has created and professes to love. The natural evolution of the planet is such that things will happen! Unfortunately it seems too easy to blame them on God, when actually they just as likely to be the result of something we have done to the planet along the line somewhere. In fact god did not say we would have an easy ride in life! Far from it. But God did say that God would be in that ride with us!

Karen

I believe that we choose our life even before we arrive on the planet, including the pains we have felt already and those we have yet to experience. Experiences, good and bad, test our spirits in a healthy way which, as humans concerned so much with the present, we do not immediately perceive. Yet with the wisdom we accumulate during the life experience, and through the value of real loving relationships, we discover growth, inner peace and a transforming power that teach us more about the hidden worth within humanity, as we begin to reflect heaven on earth.

Neil