

**Life Is Full Of Situations That
Support Or Change Our Lifestyle**

There's A



**Reason
For
That**

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Introduction

Have you ever wondered why things happen? Things like someone pulling out onto the highway right in front of you and then slowing down...or like you can't get your car started and are late for work...or having a meeting downtown and not having to go. We are going to look at some possible scenarios and possible outcomes. We will be speculating on some and showing facts on others. Here's a real live example from the Bible. It's found in **John 9:1-23**

“Now as *Jesus* passed by, He saw a man who was blind from birth. And His disciples asked Him, saying, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?”

Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be revealed in him. I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; *the* night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.”

When He had said these things, He spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva; and He anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay. And He said to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which is translated, Sent). So he went and washed, and came back seeing. Therefore the neighbors and those who previously had seen that he was blind said, “Is not this he who sat and begged?” Some said, “This is he.” Others *said*, “He is like him.”

He said, “I am *he*.” Therefore they said to him, “How were your eyes opened?” He answered and said, “A Man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and said to me, ‘Go to the pool of Siloam and wash.’ So I went and washed, and I received sight.”

Then they said to him, “Where is He?” He said, “I do not know.” They brought him who formerly was blind to the Pharisees. Now it was a Sabbath when Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also asked him again how he had received his sight. He said to them, “He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and I see.”

Therefore some of the Pharisees said, “This Man is not from God, because He does not keep the Sabbath.” Others said, “How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?” And there was a division among them. They said to the blind man again, “What do you say about Him because He opened your eyes?” He said, “He is a prophet.”

But the Jews did not believe concerning him, that he had been blind and received his sight, until they called the parents of him who had received his sight. ¹⁹ And they asked them, saying, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?”

His parents answered them and said, “We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but by what means he now sees we do not know, or who opened his eyes we do not know. He is of age; ask him. He will speak for himself.” His parents said these *things* because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had agreed already that if anyone confessed *that* He *was* Christ, he would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”

Did you get the picture? Jesus was walking by with His disciples and saw a blind man. His disciples wanted to know why this guy was blind from his birth. Jesus said it was because the works of God should be revealed in him. He was also careful to explain that it was not the guys’ fault or his parents.

So he, the blind man, went through life begging for alms and living in a world of darkness until one ordinary day of doing the same old things, God could show His power in Jesus.

There Was A Reason For His Blindness. There is always a reason for what happens to us. The sovereignty of God was at play as God intervened in someone's life. You can bet your bottom dollar that when God steps in, He has a good reason for doing so.

God's Intervention Can Cause Turmoil

It's important to see what happened as a result of Jesus' Miracle.

1. The blind man now sees clearly.
2. All His friends see or hear about the miracle and are amazed.
3. His parents are glad.
4. The religious leaders are angry with Jesus and excommunicate the blind man from the temple.
5. The blind man is now an evangelist of sorts as he tells how he can see.

The man's lifestyle has changed dramatically and that change has touched the lives of others in a significant way. Now we can see why, There Is A Reason For That.

Unexpected Delays Can Have A Good Outcome

My wife's brother lives in the New York area. On 9/11 he was scheduled for an early meeting downtown at the Twin Towers. His meeting was canceled at the last minute and he didn't go. The day of the meeting, a terrorist flew a hijacked passenger jet into the Twin Towers and the Pentagon and more than 3600 people died.

Is the canceled meeting just a coincidence or an intervention of God? He very well could have been killed had the meeting taken place. He lives today, very possibly because his meeting was canceled.

Evaluating The Possibilities

It is important to realize that most folks see only what they want to see. Two people can review the same evidence and come to very different conclusions. It's all in your belief system and how you see things. In the Biblical example above, some said the man was the same one that they saw begging before but others wouldn't go that far and said he looked similar. The religious leaders were stuck in their own dogma and threatened everyone with being politically correct.

We, as Christians, believe that God is always with us and if we have read the scriptures, we surely have come across **Psalm 34:7**, ***"The angel of the LORD encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them."*** We believe that it is indeed possible for God to intervene into our daily routine to protect and even deliver us from evil. We are always evaluating the possibilities and looking for the hand of God.

I know what you will most likely say, "What about when tragedy strikes and the outcome is not what we desire? I have had several folks tell me of freak accidents where their loved ones have died or become crippled. How does that work within the sovereignty of God?"

These things are hard to deal with because they happen to us. Nevertheless, "There Is A Reason For That". The truth is... God does not generate every happening. We generate some from our own free will. Others do too. Therefore, the reasons for an occurrence can differ depending on the source.

Ask the drunk that runs over a little kid. Ask the terrorist that blows up a plane. Ask the construction guy that builds a shabby building that falls down in the 1st severe storm. God does not generate them and it was not His will that they happen. He allows us to be a free moral agent and gives us a free will to do whatever we want. However, He also holds us accountable for our actions. God has promised us that He will work everything together for good. Hear what **Romans 8:28** says, ***"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose."***

So, some things are born out of God's divine will. Others come from us. Yet other things happen as a result of nature and weather patterns. Finally, there are those things that come from our adversary, the devil. Hear what Peter

said in I Peter 5:8-9 **“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.”**

The Underlying Premise

The underlying premise to, **“There’s A Reason For That”** is as follows:

1. The belief that God is good.
2. The understanding that God seeks our very best.
3. The words of Jesus in **John 10:10b**, “I have come that they (Us) might have life and that they (Us) may have *it* more abundantly”
4. That Jesus will never leave us.
5. That God’s angel sets up his camp of warring angels all around us because we reverence God.
6. That God is really for us and not against us.
7. That we can evaluate the reasons, looking for the hand of God.

Judging Before The Results Are In

Some folks make a judgment before the results are fully known. One year, we lost two dogs and a cat to sickness and disease. It all happened within a 30-45 day period. Our hearts were broken and, as is natural, we questioned why? It was easy to blame God because He is in control of everything, right? He could have intervened and saved our precious pets. However, He did not... or did He?

Our emotions raged and we kept hearing the thoughts of Satan that said how bad God was to allow this to happen. Fortunately, we stayed in Faith, believing that God is good and He was not in the business of killing our pets.

To believe what was racing through our emotions would be to believe a lie because we know who God is and such an act would be out of character for Him. Plus we read in the Bible that, **“The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy.”** We quickly realized that this thing was not from our Heavenly Father.

We still struggled with Why? But withheld our judgment saying, “There Must Be A Reason For That”. We just don’t know it as yet. Later, we learned that the dog food, even though it was a better mix and more costly, had several recalls due to bacteria problems and that the vet we were using at the time had no real answers.

Our final conclusion was to say, we don’t really know except the animals were suffering and God took them before they got worse. He spared us the continual agony of watching them slowly die and spared our beloved pets the ever-worsening pain. So finally we could put it to rest that God was not at fault and our animals are now in His loving care.

I know it is hard not to blame God but it is important to look to Him for answers, realizing that He is on our side and will be forever.

A “Reason” Implies A Plan

If there is a reason for everything that happens, is there also a plan? The Bible teaches Foreknowledge and Sovereignty of God. That means that God’s master plan was designed after every happening in every century, with every person, animal, weather, etc was identified by its corresponding reason.

Foreknowledge... is the ability to know what will take place and the results of those events before they take place. God is all-knowing and all-powerful. He is the only one that can judge the intent of the heart. God saw it all before the foundation of the world and designed His Master Plan accordingly.

Sovereignty... is God’s absolute right to rule over His creation. “So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.” **Isaiah 55:11** God’s work, from which He rested on the 7th day, was not just the creation of planets, universes, and the great expanse. It was also to make every decision as to His own will without violating man’s free will choices.

God, in that decision making process, takes into account many different things, including:

1. **Fulfilling Romans 8:28** which says, “And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to *His* purpose.”
2. **Setting appointments for folks to die.** “And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment” **Hebrews 9:27**
3. **Sending Jesus to earth.** “But when the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, to redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons... and because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father. Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

These are but a few of the millions of decisions relative to God’s Sovereignty. However, this is the only way God could truly give man free will and to allow him to be a free moral agent. In doing so, all of life has a cause, effect and reason. There is a master plan that retains God’s Sovereignty and man’s free will.

Some More Biblical Examples

Jesus, An Excellent Example

I’d like to use Jesus as an example of, “There’s A Reason For That”. You are aware that He was and still is the Only Begotten Son of God, sent by Him as a penalty for sin and Savior for all who believe in Him? **John 3:16**

You should also be aware that the Romans crucified Him and put Him in a borrowed grave. Picture yourself there, seeing His miracles, hearing His gospel of the Kingdom and actually seeing Him being killed on the cross of Calvary. What would you think? He is now dead and all that He said apparently died with Him. That’s what some of the disciples thought. At the garden, when they came for Jesus, they all ran away in fear. Only John was

there at the cross. Peter denied knowing Jesus three times before He went to His death.

If I would have told the disciples, “There is a reason for that”, they would have thought I was crazy. But there was a reason for the crucifixion. They didn’t know it then but after Jesus rose from the dead and showed them His hands and side, they knew. It all became clear. It was God’s master plan being worked out so He could redeem His children and save them from His own sentence of death.

With the eyes of man, this would seem like a tragedy. However, the true reason was not apparent, actually hidden from the world but known by the believers. The world rejoiced at the death of Christ but God had the last laugh. He used their evil deeds to bring about something good, our redemption and planned it all before the foundation of the world.

Joseph, Another Biblical Example

You know the story, how Joseph’s brothers sold him into slavery and told his father that he was dead. That he ended up in Egypt and became the Pharaoh’s right hand man. That, because of a famine, his brothers came to Egypt looking to buy food and came face to face with Joseph. This is what Joseph says to his brothers. “But as for you, ye thought evil against me; *but* God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as *it is* this day, to save much people alive.” **Genesis 50:20**

All of this was in God’s master plan just waiting to be enacted. It’s also a clear example that the story is not over until it is over. There was a reason that Joseph was sold into slavery by his brothers. It wasn’t what God wanted but was the very thing God used to save Jacob’s family and continue His will.

A “What If” Scenario

I have pointed out Biblical examples and even a real life story of, “There’s A Reason For That”. Now let’s take a look at a hypothetical. I will give you the scenario and multiple choices. See if you can pick the right answer.

You are driving too fast to work. You are late and you are trying to make up time so you won't be that late. You are on a two-lane highway with a fare amount of traffic.

A farmer pulls out in front of you. He is hauling a trailer full of watermelon. He is going slower than the speed limit, forcing you to slow down. There is too much traffic coming the other way for you to pass. All you can do is poke along behind the farmer.

You have read this eBook and I am now the voice in your head saying, "There's A Reason For That". What reason could there be for this happening to you?

- a.) Maybe there's a cop hiding down the road and if you were speeding you probably would have been caught.
- b.) Maybe an accident was about to happen that would have involved you had you kept on at a faster pace but because you slowed down, there was no accident.
- c.) Maybe you have a problem getting angry too quickly at things and God uses things like this so you will learn patience.
- d.) Maybe all the above is applicable.
- d.) Maybe none of the above applies.

The, "What If scenario answer is "e" but does it really matter why a thing happens? We know that God has put His Holy Spirit into our hearts as a seal of our redemption and He will do what is best for us. "Now he which established us with you in Christ, and hath anointed us, *is* God; who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts." **II Corinthians 1:21-22**

The point is... there is a reason for things happening. They just don't happen on their own and sometimes they are sent by God to teach us, protect us and keep us walking in His grace.



Conclusion

There are a million reasons why things happen in life. Trying to figure them all out can be exhausting and unprofitable. Knowing the possible sources can be comforting but still frustrating. All I need to know is my Heavenly Father is in control of my life and what happens to me.

I have His Spirit to lead me out of harms' way and into His blessings. If I should encounter things that go against my will and frustrate me, I can use them to cultivate patience and my spiritual walk. I can also reject them as being an attack from the devil.

The source or reason for them entering my reality is not important. What is important is that the things I experience do not break my stride as I walk with the Lord.

I know that Jesus came that I might have life and that life would be more abundant than ever before. **John 10:10b** I also know that I am aware of the tricks of the devil and can resist him and the things he brings my way by standing in Faith against him.

God is good. He is the Father of all life and is the very essence of Love. We should trust Him in all things and rely on Him to get us through the good times and even the bad times. He will, if we reverence Him, work everything together for our good.

So, keep looking up and drop pre-judging of every little thing. Relax and enjoy life. It is God's will that you do.