

## Why do bad things happen to good people – why do Christians suffer?

Who is good? You and I may have an opinion as to who is - God says only He is good:

- Matt 19:17 (Jesus) **...No one is good but One, that is, God...**(and those He rules in)  
Matt 7:18 (Jesus) **A good tree (God) cannot bear bad fruit...**(He can't do bad things)  
1 Jo 1:5 **...God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.** (He cannot do bad things)  
Jam 1:13 **...God is impervious to evil, and puts evil in no one's way.** MSGE

So where do bad things come from if not God? From the one who is bad that is the Devil:

- John 10:10 **The thief (Satan) does not come but to steal, and to kill, and to destroy...**  
1 Peter 5:8 **...The devil...seeks whom he may devour** (take captive, with his thoughts).  
Eph 6:12 **We are...fighting** (by God's word and Spirit in our thought lives - 2 Co 10:4-5) **against the evil rulers of the unseen world, satanic beings...of darkness who rule this world; and numbers of wicked spirits in the spirit world.**

How is the Devil able to do bad things to people? Because He is the world's ruling spirit:

- 1 Jo 5:19 **...The whole world lies under the sway** (influence) **of the wicked one** (Satan)  
Rev 12:9 **...The Devil and Satan who deceives the whole world...**It began in the garden  
Rom 5:19 **For by one man's disobedience** (Adam) **many** (all) **were made sinners...**

But what about Christians, can't God protect us from Satan; not if we sin as in disobey Him

- 1 Jo 3:8 **He who sins is of the devil, for the devil sinned from the beginning.**  
Eph 2:2 **...The prince of the power of the air** (Satan), **the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience** (by disobedience Christians get hurt by the devil).  
Acts 26:18 (Jesus) **I send you...to open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins** (whether to be born again or to be restored to God) **and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me.**

How can Christians stay out of the destructive hands of Satan? Simply obey God always:

- Jer 7:23 (God) **...Obey My voice, and I will be your God, and you shall be My people. And walk in all the ways that I have commanded you, that it may be well with you.**  
Heb 5:9 **...He** (Jesus) **became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him,**  
Rom 6:16 **...You are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin (disobedience to God) **resulting in death, or of obedience resulting in righteousness.**  
NASU**

This is the way it is, whether you and I believe it or not. Jesus says "Only believe" (Mark 5:36) so He can bless us and keep us from Satan. Choose obedience and live (Deu 30:19)