

Date:

**Podcast Worksheet**  
**Why Do Bad Things Happen?**  
**Examining the Tension Between God's Sovereignty and Our Freewill**

**Scriptural Texts:**

Isaiah 43:10-12; Ezekiel 18:25; John 7:17; Romans 7:18-19; 1 John 2:16; 3:1

**Main Points:**

1. All of God's Word is true and reliable; if there is something we don't understand, it is because our knowledge and discernment are still coming along.
2. *"Never be surprised if there are whole areas of thinking that are not clear, they never will be until you obey."* Oswald Chambers
3. Every person has the freedom (freewill) to choose what they think, say, and do.
4. Believing and following God is a choice and we, alone, are responsible for our choices.
5. God has created a perfect world without sin and pain; it is called heaven, not earth.
6. If God were to usurp every bad choice people made, we would be reduced to being puppets.
7. God's plan is for us to find life and fellowship with him, a good life, including eternal life.
8. Without freewill, we can't choose God. And if we can't choose God, we can't be saved.
9. Be careful about judging God; he is always right, fair, and just.
10. God has thought of everything: He has provided a way out of pain and suffering, a way that leads to redemption and restoration.
11. Freewill is good because it gives us the opportunity to choose Jesus and receive eternal life.
12. Bad things happen because people make selfish and evil choices that hurt others.
13. God does allow pain, but he will use it for good if we will allow him to work in our heart and mind. Pain is often the catalyst drawing us to God.

**Questions:**

1. What does Ezekiel 18:25 say to you?
2. What false beliefs have tempted you to judge God?
3. What true beliefs would help you find peace in the midst of hard circumstances?

**Prayer of Response:**

Lord God, I confess I have judged you and doubted your Word and your goodness, at times. Forgive me. I don't want to be separated from you. Help me to begin to understand the mystery in your ways, to see things with your eyes. Help me trust you more, and to go your way. In Jesus name, amen.

Commitment: After prayerful meditation on this podcast, I am going to \_\_\_\_\_

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