

HALF TRUTHS

MESSAGE #3: “EVERYTHING HAPPENS FOR A REASON”

A half-truth can be dangerous because it has enough truth to make it sound believable and enough error to mess up your life if you really buy into it. One of the biggest myths floating around out there is, “Everything happens for a reason.” But is it true? Is there a reason for all that we see? Today, we are going to examine a couple common worldview that impact our view of this statement and our view of God. Calvinism speaks of a micromanaging God who causes everything to happen. Deism sees God as the absentee landlord who is not involved in our lives. But, scripture give us another picture of God - the God who grants human beings freedom to choose. It is a picture of God who works primarily in this world through us and he puts us in charge of what happens on earth. God does not cause horrible things to happen. But when they happen, God promises to never leave us or forsake us.

ICEBREAKER

What does the term “everything happens for a reason” mean to you? Have you said that phrase to anyone and why did you say it?

DIG DEEPER

1. Do you believe, like John Calvin, that God micromanages everything that happens in our world? In other words, the weather is what it is today because God wanted it to be that way. The Leafs haven’t won the cup in 55 years, because God didn’t want them to.
2. Do you believe, like a Desist that God created everything and then stepped away and he lets whatever happens happen?
3. Read **Genesis 1:28, Deuteronomy 30:19-20 & Romans 8:28**. How do these passages impact your view of God? How are they different from the others we have discussed?
4. How do you think God works in the world today? Does God still perform miracles?

TAKE IT HOME

This week, prayerfully consider your views toward the suffering of others and your own suffering as well. Ask God to guide you and lift you up as you serve the needs of others.