

**Urban Legends: Everything Happens For A Reason**  
**April 22, 2018 (Fusion)**  
**Lynn Haven UMC**

**Introduction**

“And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.” (Romans 8:28 NIV)

Everything happens for a reason. Have these words ever escaped from your lips? Perhaps in an awkward moment, when we don't know what to say to someone who is hurting or struggling, our brains conjure up sayings like this as a means of offering comfort or sympathy. Surely our intentions are pure, but when we use expressions such as these we may be doing more to harm than good. So why do we say everything happens for a reason? Platitudes such as this taste good coming out and we're sure maybe we read it somewhere in the Bible, right?! This week we will talk about why everything happens for a reason is just not the biblically correct way to spread God's message of love.

**Digging Deeper**

**The MYTH: Everything happens for a reason.**

**The TRUTH: God works in all things for the good of those who love Him and are called according to His purpose (a.k.a. obedient).**

- If you read Romans 8:28 carefully, you will note that it doesn't say that everything that happens is good. It says that God is at work in all things. Can a bad thing ever be a good thing? Obviously, there are situations where God takes something bad and uses it to produce something good. The ultimate example is Jesus' crucifixion. His death paid for our sin. But sometimes bad things happen to us for which we may never know the reason. Have you previously misinterpreted the meaning of this verse? Or even used the expression “everything happens for a reason” as a way to comfort or explain the “why?” to someone struggling to understand how God could allow a tragedy to befall them? How can this be damaging when trying to evangelize? What is a better way to go about interacting with people in sorrowful situations?
- There are many biblical examples of how God has used terrible circumstances to work for the good of those who love Him and are called according to His purpose. Joseph and the Apostle Paul are a couple that come to mind. These people placed their hope and trust in God no matter the situation. That's not an easy task when your brothers sell you into slavery or you're thrown in a Roman jail for spreading the Gospel. But those things led to God being glorified in one way or another. The reasons behind the painful events in our life are of no eternal significance. Every trial or hardship calls for the same response: obedience. We are to do the right thing no matter the outcome. Can you think of a time when your obedience led to reward? Was your obedience driven by love and trust in God or rule following? How are we shaped more into Christ-like beings each time we choose obedience as a means of expressing our love for God?
- The Bible doesn't make a claim that every cloud has a silver lining or that all tragedies will turn out to be blessings in disguise. What it does tell us is that our character will be shaped by our perseverance when we are tested by the trials of life. So while things around us just don't make sense, and we are hurting, what hope can we have? Instead of resigning ourselves to the mentality of “everything happens for a reason,” let us recall the truth we find in 2 Corinthians 4:16-18.

## **Conclusion**

If everything happens for a reason, then sometimes that reason is that we are human and humans oftentimes make bad decisions. In the inexplicable things like disease, disaster or distress we may not know the reason this side of heaven. Either way, we have to be ok with that and place our trust in the One who does know, set the foundations of the earth and has a plan for our lives. The best thing Christians can do for someone in the midst of a tragedy is to be the love in Christ in human form. Take them a meal. Lend them an ear, or a dollar. Physically be there for them. (You can live this principle out by joining our church this Saturday for our annual day of service, City Serve!) And while you're at all of this - tell them about the reasons for your faith and for whom your heart beats. That is our best way to witness to the world without having to spout out that old familiar urban legend of "everything happens for a reason."