

P502

Grace Notes Radio Program

SERIES: Why trials?

SET 02: IS GOD GOOD?

INTRO: Is God good? Sure - we all know God is good - He's perfect, holy and without sin. He's not tempted by evil, and He doesn't tempt us with evil. But many people say God is good only when He's done something they think is good for them. Today on Grace Notes, Barbara Sandbek continues her new series 'Why Trials?' as she focuses on the goodness of God. But first, let's listen as Barbara sings a song that will help get you through any trial...

***** PRAISE THE LORD *****

We went through countless trials producing our last recording – but we finally got the product the way we wanted it – or so we thought. We filled the 'expected by July' orders in October and soon afterwards received some calls from people who said their cassettes sounded strange. To determine if we had a problem, we had to tear open and listen to the remaining 400 cassettes. The problem was obvious on the first song, which was...'Praise The Lord'. We were fed up. Why would God allow Himself to be represented so poorly? We'd prayed about this for years - spent a lot of money – and did our best. We started to cop an attitude, but after hearing 'When you're up against a struggle that shatters all your dreams - praise the Lord' 200 times, the message finally hit home. "How could we ever present this song again, unless we were willing to practice what we preach." The end result was that the company correctly replaced the entire order, and allowed us to keep the others. Only 1/5th of them were faulty. We got 400 cassettes free! And based on the sampling, we figure God enabled us to locate and replace what was sold. It occurred to me that God allowed His reputation to be at stake for our eventual benefit – but then, didn't He do that even more so on the cross?

God works things out for our good – even if we don't see it at the time.

Psalm 107:1a says...O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is GOOD.

'Good' means 'good in every sense of the word'. God is good because of his character. All he does is good because His deeds are His goodness in action.

God's goodness is that which is beneficial in its effect.

Listen closely to what Romans 8:28 says...

IN all things God works for THE good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose.

Did you get the emphasis – it's 'IN' all things and for 'THE' good. The best way for me to understand this is to think of the many times I said to my kids while disciplining them, "I'm doing this for your own good." I bet you said that, too.

We learn most often through the consequences of our wrongdoing. When my sons were young, I prayed that if they fell into sin, God would let them be found out quickly, so it wouldn't become a habit. More than once, I saw that prayer answered. The boys sure weren't happy about it at the time, but I know they've benefited. Trying to retrofit good character traits into your life once you're an adult is incredibly difficult.

Let's lay down some foundational truths before we go any further.

We suffer because of sin – IN and AROUND us. It's not God who kills the little child – it's a drunk driver. It's not God who brings on the terminal disease, it's the habitual smoker.

Sin is anything we do apart from God's will. God's will is good, because God is good. In fact, the only good we have in this world comes from Him. James 1:17a says...

EVERY GOOD and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the Heavenly lights.

The most perfect gift God sent from Heaven was Jesus, who suffered, died and rose again so that we could have fellowship with God, and not have to suffer eternally for our sin. Romans 6:23 says..

The wages of sin is death (eternal separation from God forever) but the GIFT of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

When we respond to Him in faith, we can know that God has a good plan for our lives. Romans 8:29-30 says that God calls us to be CONFORMED TO THE LIKENESS OF HIS SON. Trials may not 'feel' good, but what we learn from them will make us more like Christ. God is the only One who can make good come out of a bad situation. Everything, that comes into a Believer's life is allowed by God and WILL benefit us in some way. God makes no mistakes. God works His perfect work in us through the Holy Spirit when we believe. Philippians 1:6 says...

He who began a GOOD work in you, will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

God begins, performs and completes the work. He is on our side.

Romans 8:31a says...

If God be for us, who can be against us?

Paul writes in Romans 8:37-39...

In all these things (trials), we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus, our Lord.

God's love keeps Him faithful. His love motivates Him to do all that He does for us.

Suffering is inevitable, but not intolerable. There is a God who wants to give you good things to carry you through – a God who loves you, down to your very soul. Reach out and touch Him – you'll never be the same...

******* I sense an awesome moving of the Holy Spirit
*** HE IS HERE *** I searched for PEACE among the shadows

Thanks for joining the program.

If you've been blessed, please write to us at

Sandbek Ministries

P.O. Box 581

Fallston, MD 21047

or email us through our web site at www.gracenotesradio.com.

If God leads you, please send along a gift to help us stay on this station.

Don't miss our next program – it's sure to be a blessing.

.....