

Treasuring His Word...

From the Pastor's Heart:

And as He (*Jesus*) passed by, He saw a man blind from birth. And His disciples asked Him, saying, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he should be born blind?" Jesus answered, "It was neither that this man sinned, nor his parents; but it was in order that the works of God might be displayed in him" (John 9:1-3).

We often have questions for God that He may or may not answer from the perspective with which we asked them. But indeed it is "His answer" that needs to be given attention. We ask things like, "Why did that have to happen?" and "Why did God let that happen?" and "Why is this happening to me?"

The disciples' question had an assumption within it which revealed limitations in their concept of God's activity and power. By their calculation, someone had to be at fault (by sinning) for this man to have been born blind. But Jesus gave them an answer they were not expecting. Often we assume God's answer to us will be within certain limits. If we do not seek God's face in finding His answer, we may go away confused about God. There are many potential reasons why things happen. Personal sin certainly does have consequences. Living in this world of spiritual darkness has its natural tragedies. And certainly, our sovereign God is busy orchestrating His eternal will, part of which is directing, maturing, and disciplining our lives. He also is diligent about bringing judgment upon ungodly living. And also, God is actively accomplishing His purposes whether that be with us or in spite of us.

We can know that ultimately, God's design for life is to bring glory to His Name through His Son, Jesus Christ. So, regardless of the specifics of your particular circumstance or condition, the desired goal is that Jesus be glorified through the process of any episode of life. One may ask, "How can God get glory in *this*?" Well, if we are doing the "works" of God as the above passage states, He will use us in the circumstance or condition to accomplish that work, which specifically is that men may believe in Jesus Christ. John 6:29 says, "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He has sent."

Jesus said in John 9:4, "We must work the works of Him who sent Me, as long as it is day; night is coming, when no man can work." Let's get busy doing the work of God's kingdom, and we can trust God will accomplish His purpose and bring glory to the name of Jesus Christ, even when we cannot presently see how it's all going to work out.