



## Why Do Bad Things Happen to Good People?

*Man is a goal seeking animal.  
His life only has meaning  
if he is reaching out and striving for his goals.  
Aristotle*

The moment you think of a positive goal, you begin the manifesting process. But other parts of your thinking may conflict with what you want. Or there may be a belief that consciously creating outcomes is just too good to be true.

Some people have had poor experiences with goal setting. But as Les Brown says, 'people don't usually fail because they aim too high and miss. They fail because they aim too low and hit – or they don't aim at all.' Sometimes there's a lack of understanding about what factors need to be in place. Sometimes is a lack of following through. More often there are hidden conflicting thoughts that block the positive manifesting of the goal.

Because of previous disappointment, many people conclude goal setting and manifesting are just 'Pollyanna' activities that raise unrealistic expectations and false hope.

Such faulty reasoning feeds a belief in powerlessness. After all the thinking goes, if people really have the power to choose, then 'why do bad things happen to good people?' Why doesn't everyone have exactly what they want? Why do young children and babies suffer and die, what about innocent people who suddenly become tragically ill, and how do you explain the large groups who get killed by natural disasters and terrorists? Surely those people did not choose those predicaments!

This challenge poses several deeper spiritual questions to consider. Before you can feel comfortable with the concept of conscious deliberate creation, and before you can manifest your goals with ease, you'll need to find your own robust answers.

The question 'why do bad things happen to good people' also flips into 'why do good things happen to bad people?'. Notice these questions imply that people are at the mercy of some larger organizing cosmic energy that could be either well intentioned or not. Both of these questions presuppose that some frame is being used to assess what is good and bad, and who are good and bad people. You need to ask: according to what belief system, whose values, applied to

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which species and in what time frame? Who does the judging? The answers you accept will depend on how you define good and bad in your belief system.

Before you draw your own conclusions, give some serious thought and contemplation to the following 20 questions:

1. What constitutes a good life? Does that necessarily mean enjoying good health to a certain age, making a comfortable living (or better), being married, having 2.5 children and dying peacefully at age 85?
2. What would make a good death?
3. If people have immortal souls, then how important is the length of a life in the face of eternity? If souls are immortal, does it matter how or when they die? If souls are not immortal, how does the length of life matter?
4. Do people learn and grow and gain more wisdom from doing things right, or from making mistakes?
5. What's the purpose of being alive in a physical body?
6. Are some purposes more important than other purposes?
7. How much time might it take to achieve such a life purpose?
8. What if someone's purpose might be to play the bad guy so that others learn by negative example, make better choices, or develop good qualities?
9. For those who are completely incapacitated, could just being alive possibly be a unique contribution and purpose?
10. Could a soul have many purposes, some of which might take more than one life time? Could a soul have just one very simple purpose for this life?
11. Does a soul enter life as a clean slate, or already endowed with a distinct personality, with attitudes, talents, and corresponding values?
12. Could there possibly be some benefit or purpose in suffering?
13. How many times do you need to learn a lesson before you really get it?
14. If repetition is necessary, does that suggest some challenges (often viewed as obstacles or punishments) could be 'tests'?

15. Is it possible to objectively view 'existence' from a place where you, yourself, are stuck in a finite perspective of time and space, and where you cannot possibly see the whole picture (especially over eons of time)?
16. If every decision you make has repercussions and creates consequences, then doesn't that make you a co-creator in whatever happens in the world?
17. What if there are no good people, only sinners, as the Bible says? (Ecclesiastes 7:20; Romans 6:23; 1 John 1:8) If everyone is here making mistakes, then could that explain the resulting chaos?
18. If free choice operates in the universe, then doesn't that mean evil has to have the possibility of existing? Otherwise, there would be no moral choice, all choices would be 'good' and opportunities for learning would diminish.
19. If good people always had nothing but perfect lives and bad things always got struck down by lightning, wouldn't people just get conditioned to behave in certain ways, rather than freely choosing?
20. If man is made in the image of God, doesn't that imply a certain amount of co-creativity?

Sooner or later, you will realize that you cannot avoid manifesting. Every thought you think, both consciously and unconsciously, reflects the choices you are manifesting into existence. Every thought creates corresponding energy waves, especially when strong emotions are attached. The more often you repeat the same thought, the more you amplify the energy. But if you have conflicting thoughts and desires, they may cancel each other out. So perhaps it's time to take more care with what thoughts you choose to energise.

*Eventually you will come to understand that love heals everything, and love is all there is.*

Gary Zukav

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