Why do troubles and problems happen in this world? Why things are not going the way they are supposed to? Whose cause is it? This is a common question people are having. Why are we living in hard times if we’ve got a mighty God that can solve everything in a moment? This is the common thought and question people are having. Why does God allow bad things to happen?

 The answer is biblical. Once again we see the infallibility of the God’s word. By this we see that it is truthful. Because it speaks about reality, about everything surrounding us in the way it is. And gives us answers and advises. It doesn’t promise us an easy way with sunshine and roses, but warns us about the problems and complications might be there.

 Above everything we need to know that God is good toward us. Even if many times we don’t understand His way of loving us, He is good and does everything in our favor, so that we can accept His love and be saved. Sadly we know that many people won’t comprehend this love, will reject it and will follow their own ways. Many times as well the concept we are having of what is good, might be distorted. Important is also the final result of something or where that thing is leading us to. If it leads us to something wrong then that thing even seemingly good, is wrong and at the opposite – if it leads us to a good end, then even if it seems wrong, is good in itself. The good news and the gospel for example seem many times as something wrong to the people who listen them at first, but they obviously are the way to save us. We need to ask for God’s wisdom so that we can know clearly what is good and what not. This is even if we’ve been believers for some time already. We need to know that what is good for God and what He is pleased of, is good for us as well, because we are created by Him.

 Let’s see a parable that can give some answers to our questions.

 “Another parable He put forth to them, saying: “The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field;

 but while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat and went his way.

 But when the grain had sprouted and produced a crop, then the tares also appeared.

 So the servants of the owner came and said to him, ‘Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have tares?’

 He said to them, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The servants said to him, ‘Do you want us then to go and gather them up?’

 But he said, ‘No, lest while you gather up the tares you also uproot the wheat with them.

 Let both grow together until the harvest, and at the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, “First gather together the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them, but gather the wheat into my barn.” Matthew 13:24-30

 We see here tares being sown in the midst of the grain that is the good seed. We know by the nature that the tares are like the parasites. They suck up the good components the soil is having and in this way they don’t leave the grain to grow properly. They represent the problems and all the scandals as the explanation of the parable in Matthew 13:36-43 tells us. We see that an enemy and not God has done that. It happened while men slept.

“…**but while men slept**, his enemy came and sowed tears among the wheat and went his way.”

 We are those men. We are the ones that mustn’t sleep. God has given this field, this world to us. It is our responsibility. This is the way He works. Since the beginning He’s been giving responsibility to men, starting from Adam when He entrusted him the garden of Eden. (Genesis 2:15) He failed to keep it. Man in general wants to escape from his responsibility. No one wants to be blamed for anything wrong that happens. We all want to take credits for something good, but never for something wrong. If something good happens, we would say that because of our good approach to the situation or our good deeds, it happened, but if something wrong happens or in another situation, something good doesn’t happen, we would say that this was God’s will. This is what we are capable of by ourselves.

 Only God is really capable of doing something really good and He can accomplish it even through us, but with His might and strength. When God asked Adam to give an account of what happened in the garden after he ate the prohibited fruit, the first thing that Adam did, was to lay the blame on Eve and even God by saying that He gave her to be with him. “Then the man said, “The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate.” Genesis 3:12

 So in the same way did also the woman by blaming the serpent. Of course that it was other’s fault too, but none of them was disposed to acknowledge his part.

 Here in the parable of the tares we see that the men slept. That was the reason why the enemy came to plant his doubts, scandals and issues. We are called to watch. To watch by praying, by seeking God and reading His word applying it on our life. This is the way how our eyes will be opened to see the coming danger and the snares placed by the enemy. As we see in this parable and as we see also how the people are acting in this world, we see that the men in general are asking God to give an account of why things don’t go as planned, of why are problems there.

 “So the servants of the owner came and said to him, ‘Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have tares?’” Matthew 13:27

 They asked Him this wanting to know how was that possible and looking for answers from Him. This is how the world reasons in general. When something good happens, they barely remember about God to thank Him and when something wrong is there, they are quick to blame Him. This is how the world reasons and we mustn’t reason in the same way, even though Christians can also have the same attitude sometimes. But here we see that the reason for the problems and everything wrong is the devil and his sons (the tares). And this happens because we sleep sometimes. I am talking about sleeping in a spiritual way. There are many injustices happening in this world and this is because we are living in a world corrupted by the sin. It is because of these tares. Is this what God desires? Of course not. He doesn’t want fathers abandoning their kids, He doesn’t want husbands beating their wives, He doesn’t want any of these injustices and He hasn’t created them. They happen because of the devil and because of people doing their own will and not following His ways. Jesus said in the gospel of Luke 17:1 that it is impossible that no offenses should come, but woe to him through whom they do come. It means that He doesn’t approve that. They are not coming from Him. He is not tempted by evil, nor He tempts anyone.

 What answer can you give to someone who is helpless and is been inflicted with injustice? You can tell him that God is a righteous judge and surely will make pay those who have done wrong to him. If they don’t repent, they will have to pay one day as the vengeance belongs to the Lord. From his side the person who has suffered injustice, needs to forgive. This is the answer to give, so that these kind of persons can understand what happened and in this way they can in this world such things happen and they maybe desire something better, the perfect justice that comes from God alone. One day He will wipe out all the scandals and offences from this world and will reign in perfect righteousness and peace.

 So, we can see that evil doesn’t come from God. He is the one who sowed the good seed on the field. There is no good out from Him. When we speak about good and evil we need to know that here we are speaking also about the final outcome of what something brings. There can be a lots of things that can seem good to us, but probably at the end they are taking us away from God and we finish up badly. On the contrary there can be also things that seem bad, but at the end they are taking us to Him. So when we define good and evil we need to have a deeper insight about it. We don’t actually recognize it by our own way to judge things. Every thing that is apart form God is evil in itself. The devil and some of the angels have rebelled to God and in this way got chased away from heaven. This is the reason why they became evil. From the scriptures we see as well that God is not tempted by evil and doesn’t tempt anyone. (James 1:13) It means that it doesn’t come from Him. Nevertheless He can use that evil (as He is having that amazing capability) for something good. He can make it work for His purpose.

 “And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.” Romans 8:28

 Same as He used the trials of Job inflicted him by Satan, to strengthen his faith and receive more blessings at the end. Same as He even used Adam’s failure to bring judgement upon Satan as we see from Genesis 3:14,15 saying that He will put an enmity between the seed of the serpent (Satan) and the woman’s seed. It says that this seed will bruise serpent’s head. This is a prophecy of Jesus’ coming. Not to forget also one of the most important events that is the death and the resurrection of Jesus. Satan set up everything in a way to take Him away and at the end managed to do it, but all of this turned into the greatest triumph and victory of God over Satan, by letting Jesus die on the cross for our sins.

Lets see a passage in Ephesians 6:10-18

 “Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints”

 There is a battle between good and evil and we are participating in it. Things are just established in this way. God is sovereign and is having control on everything, but somethings are just meant and established to be in a certain way. That we need to fight, that in part we’ve got a responsibility. How do we fight? Using God’s armor, by praying and keeping His word. To keep His word we need to read it and meditate on it. From there we can get the advises and the counsels we need for this life.



 God is pleased to do things in a certain way and there is a reason for it and there is no other way, as **He is the way**, but we need to be happy about it, because this is for our good, as what is good for Him is good also for us as we are His creatures. We have a spiritual battle in front of us. When someone is not a believer yet, he doesn’t participate yet in this battle, but at the moment he believes and is born again, he becomes a soldier of Jesus Christ.

 Obviously Jesus overcame already the powers of darkness on the cross, but now we need to fight as well and not with our own strength, but with God’s power as here in this passage we see that it speaks about the God’s armor, meaning that it comes from God. There is the shield of the faith, the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, the helmet of salvation. All of this comes from God, therefore He gives us the ability to face this battle. If you fight and you don’t put on armor, you get hurt in a battle. This passage talks to us about taking the whole armor of God to be able to withstand in the evil day. Each day can be an evil one. Each day we need to take up this armor to be able to withstand. How do we get this armor? By praying, by reading His word, by meditating on it and by applying it in our life. Once that we are born again, once that we have this new life from God, we enter into this battle. I like the part where David faces Goliath with the words: “…You come to me with a sword, with a spear, and with a javelin. But I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defiled.” 1 Samuel 17:45

 We see how David came out to face a giant in the name of the Lord. Verse 18 of Ephesians 6 speaks as well about being watchful. “praying always with all player and supplication in the Spirit, being **watchful** to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints” Here we are being reminded again to be watchful. To watch means to stay awake, not to sleep, but in a spiritual way. By praying, by having a relationship with the Lord. Same as men slept and left the enemy to come into the field being sown with the good seed and plant his tares, we can also let the enemy in our spiritual area of activity, in our family or in our heart. He comes to steal, kill and destroy. Many times we as Christians can ask God and wonder why is that there are problems and trials in our life. Sometimes obviously such situations come to test us, even though we’ve done everything right and we were watchful, but sometimes these trials can be produced by our inattention and sleepiness. Sometimes problems happen just because we are living in a corrupt world and the devil is having control over it. But nevertheless all of these things can work for something good, for God’s glory upon all and in this way He is having the ultimate control over everything. People in the world are usually complaining with God, but this is because they don’t know Him and don’t see His work.

 Christians also can do that, but they need to place their sight in Him and know well this part and these passages of the Bible that speak clearly why problems and scandals happen in this world and whose responsibility it is. God can not force His righteousness in this world. It is not working in this way. There is a reason for it. He is so just and righteous God that He can not bear any sin and any iniquity. If He comes now to establish His righteousness, then no one, not even those who complain and ask Him for justice, will survive. He is devouring fire and if He desires now to come down with His justice, then He will burn most, if not everything, because He can not stand at anything sinful, as this is in His nature. This would be His natural reaction toward sin. That’s why He doesn’t come now to establish His righteousness, but waits patiently, so that more sinners can repent. He is not pleased in the death of the wicked. We need rather to be grateful that He doesn’t come now to establish His righteousness and we need to forgive when we are abused by someone or we suffer some unrighteousness. We need to remember that we are also sinners and we also deserve justice. This will help us to forgive the others. If we were forgiven for our unrighteousness, then we’ve got more reasons to forgive the others.

 What kind of answer do we need to give to someone who is been through some injustice or oppression? Will it be right to say that this had to happen or God wanted it to be in this way? I don’t think so. God doesn’t want certain things to happen. They are not in His perfect will. Things happen because we live in a fallen, corrupt by the sin world. He doesn’t want them to happen. They are actually hurting Him. The reason why He doesn’t intervene is different. He doesn’t approve when injustice or oppression happens. This is because of the wrong choices the men took and they will answer for that in front of God. There will be a judgement day. We can tell the person that suffered that injustice that the one who caused that affliction will pay for it one day, if he doesn’t repent. From the other side, the one that suffered that injustice needs to forgive and be confident that God is having a way to deal with everyone. This kind of answer will probably help that person understand the reality in which he lives and desire something better, to desire the perfect kingdom of God that is to come. In this way he will understand that there is nothing good in this world and will desire what belongs and comes from God.

 His greatness is shown as well in the capability He is having to turn what is evil, what is been sown by the devil in something good and for His purpose. The devil meant it for evil, but God used it or good, to accomplish His purpose. This goes beyond our understanding. He can not just take that evil away as if He manifests His complete justice and righteousness, we will not be able to stand now, but instead He intervenes using these moments and situations for His purpose and our good.

 Why is it that God allows wrong things to happen? Why can you see evil persons prospering and still continuing with their sinful life neglecting completely God? Because God can not force His perfect will and His justice now. He left man as a responsible for His actions and one day He will judge Him according to His perfect will. If God would establish and bring His perfect justice now, I think that no one would survive, even those being oppressed and complain asking Him for justice now. Our God is a consuming fire (Hebrews 12:29). No one can stand Him when it comes to purity and holiness. That’s the reason He can not bring His justice now on the earth. One day nevertheless, He will do that, but until then He is patient with the sinner waiting for him to repent.

 “Beloved, I now write to you this second epistle (in *both of* which I stir up your pure minds by way of reminder),that you may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us, the apostles of the Lord and Savior, knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts,and saying, “Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as *they were* from the beginning of creation.”For this they willfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water, by which the world *that* then existed perished, being flooded with water. But the heavens and the earth *which* are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.

 But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day *is* as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. **The Lord is not slack concerning *His* promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.**” 2 Peter 3:1-8

 He is not delaying His promises, He is just waiting with patience for people to repent. That’s why probably in the parable of the tares, we see the master of the field to tell his servants while gathering the tares, they can even uproot the wheat with them. That’s why he reserved them for the end. That’s why God will separate at the end the tares from the wheat.

 So, this is the reason why God is not bringing His judgement now and why we have also to fight and we have this responsibility in front of us. It is because God can not just come with His judgement and righteousness now, as no one or very few would escape and He wants more people to know Him. He works in a certain way and He’s got principles that He can not brake. It is in His nature. One of these is His righteousness. No one, as much as righteous and good he is, can not measure with His righteousness. No sin can be accepted by Him and He can not live with any of it. If He leaves us now to live as we live or to have a relationship with Him, it is because of His Son. Because God’s righteous judgment was poured on Him (the Son) on the cross. Someone had to pay. If not us, it is Him on the cross. These principles of God and way He is doing things, is in His nature. He can not avoid this, being in His nature. That’s why He sent His Son. Because He couldn’t avoid His righteousness and judgement also. That’s why the Son had to die. He bared the judgement for those who believe. That’s why we need to believe to be saved. The other reason why He wants us to participate and fight and believe in His name in the midst of all of this discrepancies in the world, is that He wants us to bring a judgement over Satan. He wants us to fight against him and overcome him. This obviously happens in His name and power. He said to the woman that her seed was going to crash serpent’s head. By this He spoke about Christ, but also about us, that with His power and in His name we are going to overcome him. I am not saying this about the final judgement of Satan, but of all these victories over him that we can have daily, believing and fighting in the name of Jesus. That’s why Ephesians 6 is exhorting us to get the complete armor of God. This is because in a way, we need to fight, but what we need to see, is that the armor belongs to God. He gives it to us.

 Many times we will see that what we retain as God’s will, won’t get accomplished and what is right in front of Him will also not happen. The reason is the Devil and the scandals he has created and also because we probably slept when we shouldn’t have. Even if we’ve done everything right, then still probably not everything will happen in a perfect way as we expected, because someone else probably slept, because we are surrounded anyway with scandals and tares sown by the enemy. We have to be encouraged even in those moments as God is having the capability to turn all of this for something good. This is His sovereign will, the one that even the devil doesn’t know about and even if he keeps on creating stumbling blocks and adversities, God will still come out as an overcomer and we also if we are (called by Him) and love Him.

We can see a verse in Romans 12:2

 “And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, **that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”**

 We can see that here with simple words we are told that in order to know the good and acceptable and perfect will of God, we need to be transformed by the renewing of our mind and not to conform to this world. Does that mean that if we are not transformed and if we conform to this world, we will not prove the good and acceptable will of God? Well, according to this scripture – yes. Seems that this good and acceptable will of God won’t happen in us unless we renew our mind and not conform to this world. Means that we can sleep and sometimes miss things. Means that we can lose of what God wants us to do according to His good will. This will, will not always be accomplished in our life. That’s why we need to watch. Why is that Jesus taught His disciples to ask God that His kingdom may come and His will can be done on earth as it is in heaven? (Matthew 6:9-10)

 Because this kingdom and this will are not done here on this earth. Jesus Himself said that His kingdom is not of this world (John 18:36). This will is not fully done here. Nevertheless the desire of the Christians must be that this will and kingdom can expand here. They need to do that with any means, firstly with prayer, because it is not done by our own strength, and then with al the rest of means and ways. We are actually commanded to pray for that. The Lord’s prayer is not a prayer that it is just meant to be repeated, but to be also prayed and lived. Things will not always happen in a perfect way. Nevertheless in the midst of all of this, even the troubles can work for something good. This is for those who love Him.

 “And we know that all things work together for good **to those who love God**, to those who are called according to His purpose.” Romans 8:28

 I don’t think anyway that everything happening in our life will work for good, as we might not always love God sincerely. We need to have the attitude of loving Him, so that this promise can be accomplished in us. It won’t happen if we sin willingly for example or leave our selves to do whatever saying that it will work for good anyway – no. God’s will is something precious and He is having a value beyond what we can imagine. He died for us. There was a high price paid for us.

 Should we do evil, so that good may come, as God makes all things to work for good? Certainly not! (Romans 3:8) God looks at our attitude and He is just. So, we can conclude that this promise won’t work for those who willingly sin and go continuously on the wrong path. Yes, it might work for good sometimes for the believers, but with a lots of consequences.

 How can we love God? When we are loved by Him, when we know His love. Romans 8:37 says:

 “Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors **through Him who loved us**.”

 It means that we first need to know His love, we first need to be loved by Him and then we can also be able to love Him. Obviously He loves us, because He sent His son to die for us on the cross, but many persons don’t know how much is that love, because they actually don’t believe it. Once that someone believes and accepts that love, he knows its greatness and starts loving God.

 Then this marvelous promise that all things work together for good, so that His will can be accomplished in us, becomes real. This is always if we love Him. We need to keep on loving Him, because He is good and because He gave Himself for us. We will never be able to understand the complexity of His love, but we can at least show Him our love, even if that many times is way lesser and it can not be compared to His love. We show Him our love because He loved us, but He instead showed us His love while we didn’t love Him. May He can be merciful toward us!

 We need to see as well that Romans 8:28 is having to do with God’s sovereign will as the next verses reveal that.

 “For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.” Romans 8:29

 One thing is sure and this is that we don’t know everything of God’s will and the way He is working in our life. It is always been said that God works in mysterious ways and this verse, (Romans 8:28) is part of that. This is the most perfect will of God in our life – His sovereign will, meaning that we don’t know the exact way it will go, but He is in control. No one actually knows exactly what will work for good in his life. For how many things we thought that happened in our life for the wrong reason and instead they worked for something good? This applies for the persons who stay in the faith and love Him. While we go through some difficult situation we never think that it will work for something good. We are not in control in this kind of will. Our Lord died according to this sovereign will of God and no one else expected or knew that. Not even His disciples.

 This is when God accomplishes His most perfect will. Most of the times , if not all, we remain marveling and surprised by how He works in our life through His sovereign will. After a while we understand that this was the best way possible things could go, but at the very moment we didn’t know that. When He turns all of these troubles around us for something good. I repeat that sometimes troubles and issues are inevitable as we live in a fallen in sin and corruption world. Even if we do our best, it could always happen that we or someone else will stumble somehow. But this is the moment that we trust in God who can help us and turn the situation that at first sight looks as something broken and ugly, in something beautiful. He makes beauty out of the ashes as it is been also said. This is when we remain marveled seeing God performing His work, performing His masterpiece. Where are we in the midst of all of this? We can see these two wills that go together, from one side God’s good and general will and from the other side God’s sovereign will, meaning the exact way things will go. Well, we don’t know the exact way the things will go, we just can rest on the promise that if we love Him, then all things will work for good and that will, will happen in our life.

 How do we love Him? By following His good and general will, by being eager that to happen. By having faith in Him. We can say that His good will is how things are supposed to happen, but it doesn’t always happen because of the troubles we are surrounded with, but through these troubles, He performs His final and sovereign will.

 Many times we know God’s good will. Is it God’s will that your neighbor living the next door should be saved? Of course, and you have to pray and fight for that. The rest will happen as it is supposed to. You just need to **love** God. It is easy to say that God doesn’t want for something to happen and we just relax on this statement. We need instead to rest on His promises, not to relax, saying and assuming things. We need to focus on the God’s good and acceptable will to happen as we read in Romans 12:2. We need to renew our mind, to watch and pray. As for His most perfect will to happen, He will take care for it. We just have to love Him, to love His ways and person. So, we see these two wills here, if we can say it in this way. From our side, in what we know, we need to do it. Many times by experience we see that God’s will happens in a way that we less expected. Can a person rest in this truth, that God is sovereign? Of course he can, but he must never relax or sleep, as we are commanded to watch. Christians are not confident because they know how things will go, but because they trust in a God who knows how things will go and is having everything under control.

(to include somewhere that what pleases Him is also good for us as we are His creatures – maybe in the beginning or in the middle)