

WHY DOES GOD TOLERATE ENEMIES IN OUR LIFE?

These are the nations the LORD left to test all those Israelites who had not experienced any of the wars in Canaan ² (he did this only to teach warfare to the descendants of the Israelites who had not had previous battle experience): - Judges 3:1-2 NIV

Interactive Questions	Objectives
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why does God allow problems in our life? • How can our enemies benefit us? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand the purpose of our problems and enemies in our lives • Understand how our enemies benefit us

Introduction: Many wonder why God does not wipe away our enemies and problems. We even ask ourselves, “Why doesn’t God imprison Satan for all of eternity so that we don’t suffer attacks or temptations?” If there was no enemy, there would be no victory. If there were no difficult problems, there would be no need to exercise our faith. The enemy was already defeated on the cross of Calvary 2,000 years ago; but God allows us to share in His victory by teaching us to defeat the enemy day after day. God is not worried about the enemy, for He already defeated him and he’s under our feet; but God is interested in our maturity and obedience. Today we will learn why God tolerates enemies in our lives. Let’s take a look at the following points:

1. IN LIFE THERE WILL ALWAYS BE BATTLES AND PROBLEMS

- a. Our problems do not end once we come to Christ. That is a lie, but it is possible to face them and solve them in Christ who strengthens us. *Philippians 4:13*
- b. Problems are inevitable because we live in a fallen world. Sometimes the battles that we face are present, because we have not yet understood the lesson that God is trying to teach us.
- c. God is NOT the author of evil, but rather the author of good. It does not please Him to see us suffer; but He allows us to have enemies and battles because it does please Him to see us mature. *Romans 8:28*

2. GOD KNOWS ALL OF OUR STRUGGLES

- a. God knows our current problems. He will not give us a heavier load than what we can carry. *Job 34:23*
- b. Though the righteous fall, God will pick them up because He is always on their side (*Psalms 55:22-23*). Even when we do not feel heavy laden, God will still never leave us.
- c. Your boss, doctor or friend will not be able to give you the rest that you need. Only God can give your soul rest. *Matthew 11:28-30*
- d. God never misses anything. He knows us completely! God and we know why we are facing certain struggles in our life. It is time to learn to fight with the Word of God till we reach the fulfillment of God’s purpose for our lives.

3. THE STRUGGLES WILL MATURE OUR CHARACTER *Judges 3:1-2*

- a. God is preparing us to enter into the Promised Land. We should no longer doubt. “Why do I have this illness?” “Why does this person keep bothering me?” “Why do I not have a job?” Wake up, God is doing something in you.
 - b. We cannot enter into the Promised Land with a mentality of slavery, a mentality that is always sinning because we do not know how to fight and a mentality that is always making excuses justifying why we cannot do something.
 - c. Know the truth and the truth will set you free (*John 8:32*). Who says we cannot learn new things? We can. We CANNOT allow lies to contaminate our minds. The faster we mature, the faster we will overcome our enemies.
 - d. We should no longer fight with other people or our spouse. Instead, we should fight against the spirit that is oppressing the person or our spouse (*Ephesians 6:12*).
- 4. THE STRUGGLES WILL TEST OUR OBEDIENCE** *Judges 3:3-4*
- a. God does not want us to reach heaven as immature spiritual children, but rather having us develop the fruit of the Holy Spirit (*Galatians 5:22-23*).
 - b. Some of us had no experience in miracles but God tested our faith and obedience. We were then able to cross the line of the logical to the illogical.
 - c. Only the spiritually mature can obey God. When we lack maturity God cannot trust us with greater things; because our character is not ready to gain greater responsibilities in the Kingdom.
 - d. God wants to prepare us like an Ehud, a deliverer who freed Israel from the Eglon people. We cannot be like the Israelites who constantly, because of their immaturity, fell into idolatry and did not obey God.
 - e. We cannot allow an enemy nation or a false god to take God’s place in our hearts and cause us to disobey. In order to free the city of Las Vegas, we need to be tested in obedience.

Conclusion: Our enemies and problems allow God to intervene in our lives in a glorious way. Today we invite you to take a step of faith and accept the Lord Jesus into your heart.

SINNER’S PRAYER

Lord Jesus, I recognize that I have sinned and that you died for me. Today I repent and I ask for forgiveness. I give you my heart and my life so that you may be my Lord and personal Savior, amen.