

Suffering and God's Will

- God's Will (desire) is that we love, follow, and obey Him (this is His overall, pervading, primary will)
- It is God's Will that we be whole, complete, healthy. God is about health, perfection – the opposite of the realm of Satan. It is not His will that we be sick or suffer. But because of the sin of mankind, He 'allows' Satan ['prince of the Earth'] to cause difficulty, sickness, and suffering.

(Analogy: It is your will as a parent that your child is whole and healthy, BUT you 'allow' them to drive a vehicle. They wreck and are injured/killed. Did you WILL that this happen? NO!! Did you allow it? Yes, in the broad interpretation of 'allowing'. So, in allowing 'freedom' (by us or by God), bad things do happen).

- Healing: All healing is from God. God expects us (allows us) to use knowledge and skills that He gives us for the benefit of mankind. He works through us. Our goal is not to perform miracles but to be channels of God's power to heal – leaving God the means.

Is God able to perform a miracle of healing? Yes. Look at Jesus' ministry. What happened to those healed or raised from the dead? The result was temporary – they got sick again and died again. The physical is temporary and the lesser in importance. The spiritual is the permanent and the greater in importance.

- Compassion: Does God care? Absolutely! "Jesus wept." [Scriptures on compassion]. The spiritual realm is greater than the physical realm. Even though He cares for us physically, His care is foremost for our spiritual health.

(Analogy: Your precious 3-year-old daughter falls and skins her knee – blood running down her leg. She is crying and scared and hurting. It's the worst thing that has happened to her – and the worst thing that she can imagine. Are you sorry? Absolutely! Do you care/have compassion? Of course! But at the same time you know that she will be physically fine - that it is minor. She can't know this. Your perspective is different – more 'mature'.)

- God sees us suffering with terrible loss, pain, sickness (terminal cancer, etc.). It's awful for us – the worst thing we've had or possibly can imagine. Is He sorry? Absolutely! Does He care/have compassion? Of course! But at the same time He knows that you will be fine spiritually (the spiritual realm is infinitely more important than the physical). God's perspective is different – more 'mature'. I pray to have God's perspective.
- WHY? The answer is "WHY NOT?" Sometimes we ask the wrong question. Are we prepared to really know the answer – the 'why'. If we ask 'why' in sickness and tragedy, then should we not ask 'why' in the midst of blessings? [In the Old Testament book of

Job, God never answers the “Why?” question].

Intellectually we accept that our loved ones and we will have sickness, tragedy, and death. Why then when ‘our turn comes’ do we have so much trouble accepting what we knew was coming? [We just didn’t know the when and the how]. My prayers are anticipatory prayers for acceptance of the greater will of God (for my spiritual wholeness), for dependency on His promises of ‘getting me through’, for never doubting or leaving Him, and for exemplifying these aspects for others – remaining steadfast and resolute to the end. He has promised us the ultimate VICTORY!! the vital ingredient of compassion]