

## **A DEVOTIONAL SERIES ON THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN ABOUT JESUS CHRIST**

### **GOD WORKS GOOD**

John 9:2-3 “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” Jesus answered, “It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him.”

Jesus’ disciples wanted to know the reason why the man who could not see from birth was blind. They were thinking as they most likely had been taught by their Rabbi. Rabbis taught that the sins of parents are punished in their children. Prophets had written that sins were not transferred from parent to child, but rather sinners were personally responsible for the sins they committed and their consequences. This brought forth the question by the disciples whether the blind man was blind because of his parent’s sin or his own.

Sin is often the root cause of negative consequences in a person’s life. An example would be a person driving 120 mph, has an accident due to the speed he was driving and becomes a paraplegic. His sin was the direct cause of the loss of the use of his arms and legs. The truth is, not all illnesses such as blindness are caused by sin. Examples of this include St. Paul who wrote in 2 Corinthians 12:7-9, “So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited. Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.”

What appears as bad to you or others may indeed be permitted by God for a good purpose. An example would be Joseph, sold into slavery by his brothers, falsely accused by Potipher’s wife and imprisoned, explained to his brothers years later why his life’s journey occurred as it did, “. . . you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive. . .” (Genesis 50:20)

Jesus’ answer to the disciple’s question was, “. . . It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him. . .” (John 9:3)

Because one is born deaf, blind, autistic, learning disabled never prevents God from working good in their life and/or the lives of those around them. God's will is as Luther explains, "a good and gracious will." Therefore, Jesus taught you to pray to your Heavenly Father, "Not my will, but Your will be done."

Prayer: Grant me faith, O Lord, to trust Your good and gracious will and look for the good that you intend to work in my life and the lives of others. In Jesus' name. Amen.

What God ordains is always good: His will is just and holy.  
As He directs my life for me, I follow meek and lowly.  
My God indeed In ev'ry need Knows well how He will shield me;  
To Him, the, I will yield me.

What God ordains is always good: He never will deceive me;  
He leads me in His righteous way, And never will He leave me.  
I take content What He has sent; His hand that sends me sadness  
Will turn my tears to gladness.

What God ordains is always good: His loving thought attends me;  
No poison can be in the cup That my physician sends me.  
My God is true; Each morning new I trust His grace unending,  
My life to Him commending.

What God ordains is always good: He is my friend and Father;  
He suffers naught to do me harm Though many storms may gather.  
Now I may know both joy and woe; Someday I shall see clearly  
That He has loved me dearly.

What God ordains is always good: Though I the cup am drinking  
Which saviors now of bitterness, I take it without shrinking.  
For after grief God gives relief, My heart with comfort filling  
And all my sorrow stilling.

What God ordains is always good: This truth remains unshaken.  
Though sorrow, need, or death be mine, I shall not be forsaken.  
I fear no harm, For with His arm He shall embrace and shield me;

So to my God I yield me.  
(LSB 760)