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**WHY DO THINGS
HAPPEN???**

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God doesn't always tell us. He hasn't said He would reveal all secrets. Isaiah 55:8, 9 "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts."

However, sometimes He reveals them later.

John 13:7 "Jesus answered and said unto him, "What I do thou knowest not now; but thou shalt know hereafter."

Deut. 29:29 "The secret things belong unto the Lord our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law."

1. He is preparing us to help others.

II Cor. 1:3, 4 "Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God."

Hebrews 2:18 "For in that he himself has suffered being tempted, he is able to succor them that are tempted."

2. To teach us patience, endurance.

James 1:2-6 (Phillips) "When all kinds of trials and temptations crowd into your lives, my brothers, don't resent them as intruders, but welcome them as friends! Realize that they come to test your faith and to produce in you the quality of endurance. But let the process go on until that endurance is fully developed and you will find you have become men of mature character with the right sort of independence. And if, in the process, any of you does not know how to meet any particular problem he has only to ask God – who gives generously to all men with out making them feel foolish or guilty- and he may be quite sure that the necessary wisdom will be given him. But he must ask in sincere faith without secret doubts as to whether he really wants God's help or not.

Romans 5:3 “And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience.”

3. To prove or show us His love.

Hebrews 12:11 “Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.”

Revelation 3:19 “As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.”

Proverbs 3: 11, 12 “My son, despise not the chastening of the Lord; neither be weary of his correction: For whom the Lord loveth he correcteth; even as a father the son in whom he delighteth.”

Hebrews 12:6 “For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.”

4. To become Godlike. All things are used to conform us to the image of Christ.

Romans 8:28, 29 “And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.”

5. To make us glad.

I Peter 4:12, 13 “Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ’s sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.”

6. To humble us, to prove, to teach us that food isn't everything and that real life comes by obeying every commandment of God.

Deut. 8:2, 3 "And thou shalt remember all the way which the Lord thy God led thee these forty years in the wilderness, to humble thee, and to prove thee, to know what was in thine heart, whether thou wouldest keep his commandments, or no. And he humbled thee, and suffered thee to hunger, and fed thee with manna, which thou knewest not, neither did thy fathers know; that he might make thee know that man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the Lord doth man live."

7. He is preparing us to bring forth more fruits.

John 15:1, 2 "I am the true vine and my Father is the husbandman. Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit."

Isaiah 49:2 "And he hath made my mouth like a sharp sword; in the shadow of his hand hath he hid me, and made me a polished shaft; in his quiver hath he hid me."

8. To save much people alive.

Genesis 50:20 "But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive."

Phil. 1:12 "But I would ye should understand, brethren, that the things which happened unto me have fallen out rather unto the furtherance of the gospel."

Lisa Beamer, Todd Beamer's wife, used this verse in her message to the 2002 graduating class at Wheaton College. Through Todd this was accomplished. When he said to the men on the plane near Philadelphia, "let's roll"! That gave the stewards time to call in the seat #'s of the terrorists. Then United began to make out what was happening to the 3 planes.

9. A breaking experience

Luke 22:31, 32 "And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: but I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren."

10. We are used as a battleground as Satan fights God.

Job 1:7 "And the Lord said to Satan, Whence comest thou? Then Satan answered the Lord, and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it."

Satan lied: I Peter 5:8, "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:"

11. That the works of God should be manifest

John 9:3 "Jesus answered, Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him."

Ezekiel 36:23 "And I will sanctify my great name, which was profaned among the heathen, which ye have profaned in the midst of them; and the heathen shall know that I am the Lord, saith the Lord God, when I shall be sanctified in you before their eyes."

12. For the glory of God.

John 11:4 “When Jesus heard that, he said, This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God might be glorified thereby.”

13. God protected them at that particular time because they didn't know how to fight.

Exodus 13:17 “And it came to pass, when Pharaoh had let the people go, that God led them not through the way of the land of the Philistines, although that was near; for God said, lest peradventure the people repent when they see war, and they return to Egypt.”

God in special ways protects new Christians as well.

SEPTEMBER 17 & 18, 2004

*And they that shall
be of thee shall build the old
waste places: thou shalt raise
up the foundations of many
generations; and thou shalt
be called, The repairer of
the breach, The restorer of
paths to dwell in.*

Isa 58:12 KJB

RAISING UP GENERATIONAL DISCIPLES

The Great Commission presented by Jesus Christ in Matt. 28:18-20, urges the church to bear the fruit of Disciples... and disciples who multiply themselves wherever they go. Building and developing disciples... men and women, couples, singles and students... who multiply into many generations is not a hurried process, but one that requires patience, persistence, faith and a measure of artfulness. John Crawford will speak to the call of God to raise up multiplying disciples, one or two at a time, helping them to spiritual maturity.

The process of developing into a mature and productive disciple of Jesus Christ has long appeared a mystery to many. John will share from his own experience and background in developing men how we can participate with God in that process to see spiritual multiplication happen right where we are.

One Day Discipleship Conference

The Navigators

Oklahoma City, OK

NW Baptist Church

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John Crawford presently serves as Area Representative for The Navigators in Oklahoma City where he and Helen have lived since 1980. John's tenure with The Navigators began in 1947 when Dawson Trotman encouraged John to invest in the lives of men and build disciples who could teach others also. Prior to Oklahoma City, John was country leader in New Zealand, living and working among the Kiwis for about 9 years. Discipleship, principles for practical Christian living and training men have been the mainstay focus of John's ministry over the years.