

UNDERSTANDING GOD'S ACTIONS

Job 36:5,22,26 ... "Behold, God is mighty, but despises no one;...Behold, God is exalted by His power; who teaches like Him?...Behold, God is great, and we do not know Him..."

Children reach a certain age when they begin to ask questions which start out simple and infrequent, then become deeper and more often. Some parents become tired of the questions, but I love kids at that age. They are exercising their God-given desire to learn and there is nothing better than helping them accomplish that.

Christians also develop a curiosity about God. The questions they cannot find answered in the Bible, they ask of other believers, who sometimes find the conversations tedious. However, a new believer is just establishing a foundation for the life he or she will enjoy until death. It is important that mature believers accept the curiosity of new believers as fertile ground for firming up their faith and helping them grow in Christ. If a new believer asks you a question about God that you cannot answer, that is a clue that both of you need to go to God's Word together to find the answer.

The most difficult questions you might ask about God, are those pertaining to his decisions; why he allows some people to suffer; why he allows some people to live in poverty; why he allows some people to have terrible accidents, and more. I am also curious about such things. But, as we read in Job, "God is great, and we do not know Him." That is not speaking of our relationship with God (we can know him personally). It is stating that we do not fully understand his ways, his thoughts, his actions, and his will for others. If you could fully understand everything God does, and his plan for every other person, God would not be necessary. You could plan your way through life without his help. Remember what God said about the sin of Adam and Eve? Genesis 3:22 "Then the Lord God said, 'Behold, the man has become like one of Us...'" (referring to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit), and then God forbade men from eating of the tree of Life as their punishment for disobeying him.

You may never understand why God does the things he does. If God felt we needed to understand his actions, he would have explained himself to us. No, instead, you need to focus on God's character and nature, which reveals that He loves us more than anyone else possibly could, that he has promised us heaven and earth for eternity, and that he died for us. Isn't that really more important than knowing why God allowed you to sprain your ankle?

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