

Why would a good God let a little boy get cancer?



This was a question we were frequently asked when, on April 19, 2005, 3 year old Jeremiah was found to have leukemia. Our lives were immediately turned upside down, as we were thrown into the world of childhood cancer treatment.

Spinal taps, bone marrow aspirates, chemotherapy, months spent in isolation, and such soon became a regular way of life for us. Through it all, we continued to hear one question time and time again:

“How could a good, loving God let your little boy get cancer?”

We knew that this was part of God’s plan for our family, as we were long-time believers in Romans 8:28, which says, “And we know that **all things** work together for them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose.”

In John chapter 9, the Bible tells the story of a man born blind. The disciples asked, “Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind?” Jesus answered them, “Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: **but that the works of God should be made manifest in him.**”

These powerful words of Jesus cut like a knife. **Could God have something meaningful to show through Jeremiah's cancer diagnosis?**



The man born blind was later healed by Jesus. His blindness had been allowed that he might be healed, **allowing others to see the power of God** through his healing.

Likewise, we knew that Jeremiah's cancer could point to God's **saving** power, because people would want to know the answer to the question on the front page. It is a question similar to those that many have asked at one time or another.

On February 27, 2007, Jeremiah, age 5, asked Jesus to be his Savior. This event brought peace, because we knew now, that whatever Jeremiah faced in the future, he would spend eternity in Heaven with Jesus Christ, instead of hell.

You may ask, **“Why would you think that a good person who dies from cancer would NOT go to heaven?”**

The Bible tells us in Romans 6:23 “For the wages of sin is death.” Wages are something we earn. Death, then, is **what we earn** for our works of sin.

Maybe you say, “I’m not a sinner...I’ve never killed anybody, never stolen anything, nor done anything REALLY bad.”

But God’s Word says in Romans 3:23, “For **all** have sinned and come short of the glory of God.” ALL means **everybody** - even me, even little Jeremiah, **even YOU**. Even a “small” sin, like telling a lie, is sin. The more we think about our daily life in light of this truth, the more we see that yes, **every one of us is a sinner** - a sinner whose wages are worthy of one thing - death, and eternal separation from God.

Like the Bible says, “the wages of sin is death.”

Back in Bible days, people would sacrifice an animal as an atonement, or covering, for their sins. Death, as they knew, was the only acceptable payment, because a holy God cannot be in the presence of sin.

Can you imagine having to sacrifice an animal each time you sin? Most of us sin daily without even thinking about it. We get angry when someone cuts us off driving. We lose patience while waiting in line at the grocery store. We don't always tell the clerk if she gives us back too much change. These things are sin. Sin that deserves **death**.

There is nothing you or I can do to be good enough to earn our way into heaven. The only payment acceptable to God is death. But, if we die in our sins, we are still unrighteous and "dirty" sinners, and cannot be in the presence of a holy God. Therefore, we are fit only to spend an eternity in hell. Revelation 20:14 says, "And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire.." **If we die in our sins, we pay for our sins by spending eternity in hell.**

This all sounds pretty hopeless, doesn't it?

And yet, **there is hope.**

God created us. He knew that every one of us would be a sinner. He knew the wages for sin was death. **And yet, He loved us enough to provide a way out.**

Just as a lamb was sacrificed back in Bible days to atone for the sins of the people, God has provided His own Lamb. Jesus Christ, God's only Son, the "Lamb of God", paid the price for our sins. His death on the cross was payment for the sins of all mankind. Because of His payment of our wages (death) for sin (our sin), **we have a FREE ticket into heaven!**

Romans 6:23 says, "For the wages of sin is death, **but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.**"

God is willing to give us the gift of eternal life in Heaven with Him, because **Jesus Christ died to pay the wages for our sin!**

Does this mean that everybody is going to get to go to Heaven, since the wages of sin has been paid by Jesus Christ?

No!

If you wanted to ride the merry-go-round at the amusement park, and needed a ticket to do so, you could not get onto the ride if you did not have a ticket. If I offered you a free gift of a ticket, you still could not get on the ride unless you **accept that ticket as your own.**

It is only after accepting it that it becomes your gift, and your ticket onto the merry-go-round. So it is with God's gift of eternal life. **You must ask to receive this gift, and accept it as your own.** Romans 10:13 says, "For **whosoever shall call** upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." Only those who CALL upon Jesus Christ to save them from the wages of their sin and accept His payment for them on the cross will be saved from eternal death in hell, and get to spend eternity in Heaven.



As the Bible says in Romans 10:10, “For **with the heart man believeth** unto righteousness; and **with the mouth confession is made** unto salvation.”

God has made His plan known to us in His Word. He has made it **simple** enough that a little child like Jeremiah can understand it, and can receive this free gift, having **peace** to face whatever the future may hold. You, too, can have this peace.

**All you have to
do is ask.**

If you would like to **know for certain** that you will go to Heaven when you die, pray this simple prayer today:

“Lord Jesus, I acknowledge that I am a sinner, and ask you to forgive me for the sins I have committed. Thank you for dying on the cross to pay the penalty for my sins. I want to ask you to be my savior and to accept your free gift of eternal life in Heaven. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”

If you just prayed this simple prayer from your heart, you have become a Christian. You are now **a child of God**, and will go to Heaven when you die.

Please let us know if you have accepted Jesus Christ’s gift of payment for your sins and asked him to become your savior.

We would love to be able to pray for you, and to help you find a good local church to go to, that you might continue to learn about God's plan for your life. We would also be grateful to know that our little boy's cancer has been used of the Lord to reach another soul for His kingdom.

You may contact us by email at:

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or through the mail at:

Free Gift

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May the Lord Bless You!