

# A Christian Opportunity - When Tragedy Strikes

Why did God let this happen? And, if these people had to die, why did it happen *this* way? There are peaceful and painless ways to die. Why would God take these lives so violently? Or did God have anything to do with it at all?

## 7 Points to Consider About Tragedy

### 1. Death is certain

- **Heb 9:27** And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment...

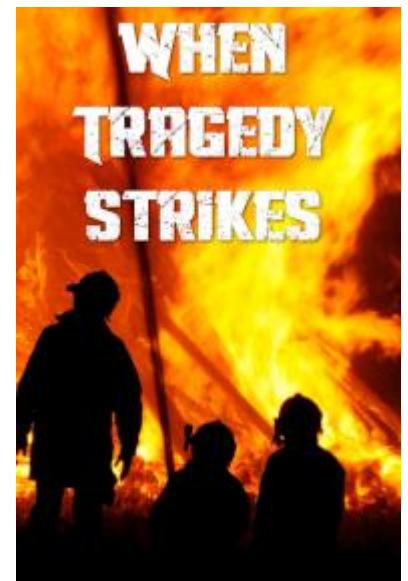
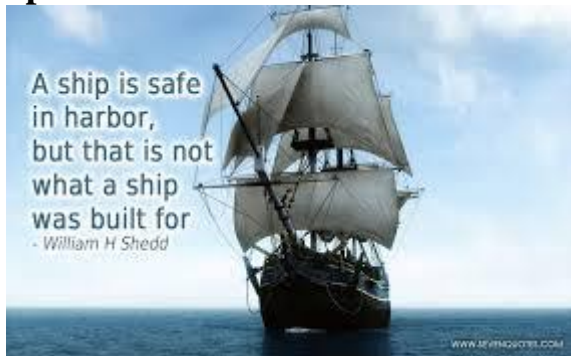
### 2. Life is short

- **Psa 39:4** "LORD, make me to know my end, And what is the measure of my days, That I may know how frail I am.

### 3. Accidents happen

- **Ecc 9:11** I returned and saw under the sun that— The race is not to the swift, Nor the battle to the strong, Nor bread to the wise, Nor riches to men of understanding, Nor favor to men of skill; But time and chance happen to them all.

### 4. God put man at risk



### 5. Flesh is cheap, Character is dear

- David decides to count his army ... God is angry has David choose between 3 punishments... 3 years of famine, 3 months of fleeing from enemies & 3 day of plague ... 70,000 men died ... to teach David a lesson (and to be an example to us)  
**2Sa 24:17** Then David spoke to the LORD when he saw the angel who was striking the people, and said, "Surely I have sinned, and I have done wickedly; but these sheep, what have they done? Let Your hand, I pray, be against me and against my father's house."

### 6. Death is not the end

- **Job 14:14-15** If a man dies, shall he live again? All the days of my hard service I will wait, Till my change comes. You shall call, and I will answer You; You shall desire the work of Your hands.

### 7. It's the response that counts

- **Pro 24:16** For a righteous man may fall seven times And rise again, But the wicked shall fall by calamity.

Key points: <https://www.ucg.ca/booklets/why-am-i-suffering>

## God Does Care for you

1Pe 5:6-7 Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.

- **God Does Hear you**

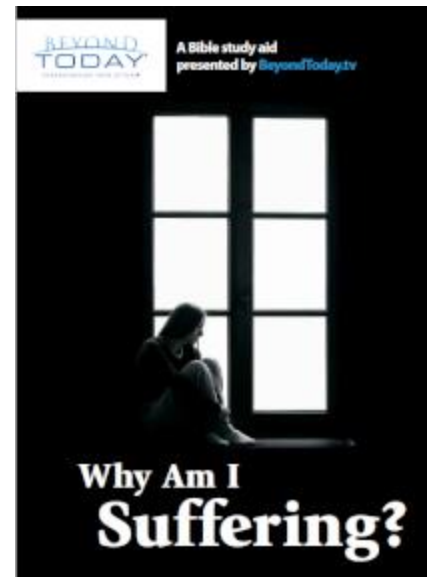
**Isaiah 65:24** Before they call I will answer; while they are yet speaking I will hear.

- **When it seems He doesn't hear ...**

**Isa\_59:1** Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, That it cannot save; Nor His ear heavy, That it cannot hear.

- **Hearing God's will**

**Luk 22:42** saying, "Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done."



## Why Suffering -Where does it come from?

**Rev 21:4** And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be **no more** death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be **no more** pain, for the former things have passed away."

- **Time & Chance**

- **Satan**

**1Pe\_5:8** Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

## Jesus Christ is the way through suffering

**Heb 4:15** For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.

- Jesus understands our human frailty

**Psa\_103:14** For He knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust.

- Jesus understands the world is not fair & right

**Isa 32:1** Behold, a king will reign in righteousness, And princes will rule with justice.

- Jesus understands relationship problems

**(Mat 22:36)** Great commandment - Love God & Love neighbour

- Jesus understands Illness & pain

**(Is 52)** Jesus body was marred more than any man

- Jesus understands grief & sorrow

**Isa 53:4** Surely He has borne our **griefs** And carried our **sorrows**; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted.

- Begin working through your suffering today

**2Pe 3:9** The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

# An “Adverse Event” Sufferer from the Covid-19 Vaccine

My name is **Billy Boal** ...

2 Years ago I was forced by my employer (Foundry), to take a vaccine that was still in the Trial Phase - or else - I would be fired.

Foundry was forced by the mandates of my **Government** to REQUIRE vaccinations of employees.

With the first shot I felt very very sick and had to stay home for 3 days. The second vaccine shot was a lot different. Within 24 -72 hours I developed all the following symptoms:

- **Chronic Pain** (eg in the nerves shooting down my legs)
- **Chronic Sweating** • **Disorientation**
- **Memory Loss** • **Constant Fatigue**
- **Intermittent “Electric Shocks” that go throughout my body**
- **Restless Legs Syndrome**

None of these symptoms have ever went away ... most have gotten worse.

## Result

I was terminated from my job.

I have no income to help my wife & family (two children aged 11 & 16)

My quality of life is chronic pain & little ability to do anything because of the pain & fatigue

My prognosis for the future is uncertain... The symptoms triggered by *my body’s reaction* to the Covid-19 Vaccine, have shown no signs of improving in the “first 2 years” & my doctors seek to treat the symptoms of a (new?) ailment that has no name & no history to show what treatments *may be* effective.

## My Hope

The Government of Canada created the VISP (Vaccine Injury Support Program) which began accepting claims on June 1, 2021. As of June 1, 2023, statistics show

(<https://vaccineinjurysupport.ca/en/program-statistics>) **1,859** Canadians have applied for compensation -- but the process takes an agonizing 18+ months to be decided. My claim is waiting to be assessed. My 2 doctors (& the government appointed 3 doctors) have done all of the paperwork required in support of my claim. Yet of **467** claims assessed, only **103** have been approved... (**22%**)!

Can you imagine the stress & worry & depression caused by such a long (uncertain) process? Compensation will not restore my health-- but it can help restore the loss in our family finances, & the pain & hardship I have experienced caused by the mandated Covid-19 vaccine.



## More detail to my story ...

### Before the vaccine...

I was REALLY ACTIVE! I played baseball 2 to 3 days a week. I golfed. I was always going out for walks or to swim & even occasional summertime adventures to Canada's Wonderland or Blue Jays games with my family. In the winter I played in & ran a Hockey Club in the Kingston Men's Hockey League. I was a very active person. I didn't enjoy sitting around the house.

### After the vaccine...

Now I can't do any of those activities. I've received free tickets to a couple Blue Jays games & (when my heart pushes me to go!) ... I leave halfway through the game ... because of pain & anxiety. I don't **enjoy** really **anything** anymore because of the pain & the "electric shocks" & the constant stress ... of not having a pay check. I've **always** been able to work & support myself. Not being able to hold a job & help my wife feed my kids, & give them a shelter over their heads ... is a **depressing** situation for me to be in. I don't have any post-secondary education, so my best asset was my physical strength & endurance, as well as my mental abilities to adapt to situations & thrive on coming up with great solutions (to impress those around me)! I was a leader. I was a person **you could count on** ... that my bosses **would** count on ... I no longer have the health to be "**that** person".

I am no longer the person my wife married. I was active & helpful around the house. I was a hard working provider for my wife & our children. I was helpful with my children's everyday lives. I am also not able to be intimate with my wife... It surely bruises a man's ego. I try to remind myself ... it's the **vaccine-triggered illness** -- **It's NOT ME!** ... But I can't help but question **everything in everyday situations**... It's a terrifying place I'm in!

## Future thoughts ...

I didn't **choose** this (change in my life) ... I don't **want** this (change in my life) ...

What **I control** (looking forward) ... is to:

- pursue whatever compensation is made available to **help with my family expenses** & with the **extra costs of my care** due to the vaccine-triggered illness
- continue to work with my doctors to pursue treatments that might lead to a cure ... or a lessening of the horrible symptoms that currently remain a **daily** struggle
- continue to try to **be "Billy"** ... to try to keep smiling (through pain), to be positive (as I am able) with my wife & kids & mom & in-laws & friends and all who love me & support me in my battles ... with their encouragement & their time spent with me. I REALLY love you gals! ... Ahem ... and you dudes too!

# WHEN TRAGEDY STRIKES

CHARLES F. STANLEY

## 1. When the Unthinkable Happens - Turn to God!

- Sooner or later, **every person** will be faced with the sadness & difficulty associated with sudden traumatic events that change life forever.
- We don't arrange ahead of time to face these sudden "crisis" moments—& they'll almost always occur with devastating abruptness. We

get the phone call about the auto accident; we hear of the heart attack; we catch the ongoing loop on the evening news of the viral pandemic sweeping the globe.

- **Psa 46:1-2** God is our refuge and strength, always ready to help in times of trouble. So we will not fear when earthquakes come & the mountains crumble into the sea.

In moments of tragedy and crisis, there's **no better place** to turn than to our God - when the unthinkable happens, it's time for us to look to the Father and ask Him for **words of comfort & strength** & for **direction** on how we should **respond** and **proceed**.

- Deu 31:6 Be strong & of good courage, do not fear nor be afraid of them; for the LORD your God, He is the One who goes with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you."

We also have hope because we're not alone—not only do we have God, He's also given us **each other**. This is our strength—learning to rely on God together.

- Our response to tragedy, whether it's personal & limiting in effect or an all-encompassing, worldwide crisis, should be the same:
  - Turn to the Father,
  - lead with compassion and concern for others,
  - live fearlessly,
  - remember who's in control, &
  - discover the good.

## 2. Lead With Compassion & Concern

- How should we respond when, like a bolt out of the blue, our cherished ideals, family's safety, future security, and all other dreams of life for which we've labored & invested are suddenly threatened?
- First, we should respond with compassion and concern for those who're suffering and for those who're hurting. Since the advent of television, we're no longer onlookers or passersby. This should affect us deeply and ignite compassion in us as we see suffering.
- **What is our responsibility?** Reach out to others with compassion & understanding—to walk with those in need & to comfort them (Matt. 5:4). Compassionate people are those who feel the pain of others & act to help alleviate that pain in whatever way they can.
  - **2Cor 1:3-4** Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

### 3. Live Fearlessly

- There's a second response that's also very important: We must be courageous to face any tragedy calmly—with determination & without fear. A verse that God has used over the years to help me ... **Isa. 41:13** I am the LORD your God, who upholds your right hand, who says to you, "Do not fear, I will help you".
- We have a right to be bold and confident for the simple reason that God's promised to intervene on our behalf.
  - Does that mean that we'll never suffer consequences? No, it doesn't.
  - Will we always be free from hardship and adversity? Of course not.
  - Does it mean that tragedy will not touch our lives? Not at all.

It means that when we, individually or collectively, stand sovereign under the protection of God, we can be assured that He will not fail us, with our God, we will be triumphant.

### 4. Remember God's in Control

- A third response. It's natural for those faced with sudden calamity to ask, "God why did you allow this to happen?" This question shouldn't be ignored but instead faced head on... we're not afraid to ask Him hard questions.
  - **Did** God know about the difficulty, calamity, or tragedy before it happened to you? Yes, because He's omniscient and all-knowing (Ps. 139).
  - **Did** God initiate this calamity or tragedy? No—but He did permit it to happen.
  - **If** He knew about these things, then why did He allow them to happen? With all the earnestness in my heart, I respond to you by saying: Ask Him. Prayerfully engage Him with your questions and concerns. You may even find yourself asking Him: "What do you want to teach me through this series of events, Lord?" In my experience, God works good out of even the most difficult of circumstances & promises to give comfort & strength to the most sorrowful heart.



### 5. Discover the Good

- There's another response, when we find ourselves in the midst of the unthinkable: I believe we're to discover the good that **God will bring** from this calamity or tragedy.
- Some may ask, "How can you even think that anything good could come out of anything tragic?" Deep, emotional scarring can blind us to the possibility that in the future there will be healing & peace for even the most traumatized of souls. But healing does come. With God's healing, guidance, & blessing, people rise out of the ashes of despair & some become a beacon of hope to many seeking help in the aftermath of personal tragedy.
- How are we able to rebound?
  - **Romans 8:28** We know that God causes all things to **work together for good** to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.
- Sometimes in the midst of tragic situations, there's a greater sense of things eternal than there may have been for a long time in your life & we find our way back to God



<http://www.whentragedystrikes.org/>  
[http://www.whentragedystrikes.org/say\\_not\\_say.htm](http://www.whentragedystrikes.org/say_not_say.htm)

**SILENCE**

"Listening is not just etiquette. It's a way of loving, honoring and respecting others. Listening is a way of bonding and connecting. It's a way of sharing ourselves and our humanity."

**What to Say**

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- "Can you tell me what happened?"
- "I'm so sorry."
- "This must be difficult for you."
- "I don't know what to say."
- "Everyone grieves differently."
- "It's normal to feel \_\_\_\_\_ under these circumstances."
- "It's OK to feel \_\_\_\_\_."

**What Not to Say**

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- "I know how you feel."
- "Don't feel \_\_\_\_\_."
- "It will be better tomorrow."
- "You can always rebuild."
- "At least you're not hurt."
- "What you need to do is \_\_\_\_\_."
- "Don't cry."
- "He's out of his pain."
- "He's in a better place."
- "Calm down."

**Summary**

Speak with the survivor in brief sentences. Don't go on and on.  
 If you have nothing to say, say nothing.  
 Don't say things that attempt to "make things better" or that try to lessen the survivors pain.

**Use tentative words like...**

- "Perhaps"
- "Maybe"
- "You might"
- "Have you considered \_\_\_\_\_?"

**Don't use words like...**

- "You should...."
- "I want you to..."
- "If I were you..."
- "Don't \_\_\_\_\_."
- "The best thing for you to do is..."

## How to Help

- [What is Emotional First Aid \(EFA\)?](#)
- [The Horrible Hours](#)
- [Common Reactions to Traumatic Events](#)
- [The 5 Emotional First Aid \(EFA\) Skills](#)
- [EFA: The Finer Points](#)
- [What to Say/Not to Say to Survivors of Tragedy](#)
- [Death Notification](#)
- [EFA: Guiding Principles](#)
- [Review of Major EFA Concepts](#)
- [EFA is Powerful](#)
- [Get Yourself Out of the Way](#)
- [Helping Teens & Children](#)
- [Understanding the Emergency System](#)
- [Helper: Heal Yourself](#)
- [Follow Up with Survivors](#)
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### How to Cope

- [Coping After Tragedy](#)
- [Common Reactions](#)
- [Dealing with Your Emotions](#)
- [Helping Your Children Grieve](#)
- [Practical Next Steps](#)
- [The Coroner/Medical Examiner](#)
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- [What To Do When Death Enters the Life of a Child - Clichés To Be Avoided](#)
- [Sudden Infant Death Syndrome \(SIDS\)](#)
- [SIDS Parents Need Reassurance](#)
- [Helping Children Grieve](#)
- [How To Cope After Tragedy Strikes - Tips for Teens](#)
- [Helping Teenagers Cope After a Traumatic Event](#)

### Dealing with Traumatic Loss

- [Helping Others After Tragedy Strikes: What To Say and Do](#)
- [Is There Anything I Can Do to Help](#)
- [Common Reactions Following a Traumatic Event](#)
- [Effective Ways of Coping After a Traumatic Event](#)
- [Coping With The Loss Of a Loved One](#)
- [Grief - Practical Suggestions](#)
- [Final Details-A Guide for Survivors When Death Occurs](#)
- [Veteran's Benefits](#)

### Domestic Violence

- [Domestic Violence](#)
- [Facts About Domestic Violence](#)

### Fire Loss

- [Coping With The Loss of a Pet](#)
- [After a Fire](#)

### Suicide

- [After a Suicide: Do's and Don'ts](#)
- [Suggestions For Survivors of Suicide](#)
- [Suggestions for Helping Children Cope with Suicide](#)
- [Suggestions for Coping with Suicide as a Family](#)

### Death in the Workplace

- [Helping Employees React After A Traumatic Event](#)
- [Dealing With Tragedy in the Workplace](#)
- [Helping Employees React After A Traumatic Event](#)