

Response to Susan Jacoby's Article by Katelin Gootee

I'm a young Christian girl from Grace Reformed Church who would like to stand for my faith. Before you throw this away or think this is nonsense I would ask if you could take the time to please read my opinion on your article that you wrote.

The first thing I notice is when you spoke about your childhood saying this, "Why would God do that to the little boy?" Well first off, your mom was right God does have his reasons. It reminded me the story of Joseph. It starts as him being the favorite son of the 12. His brothers grew jealous of their little brother and decided to kill him. Instead, God's plan for Joseph was to be sold into slavery. Years later he became second in command of Egypt! Then there came a great famine and Joseph being second in command, who by the way, followed God, was able to save Egypt and his family, even after they disowned him. Joseph forgave his brothers and they were family once again. God does the same thing for us today by turning that bad thing into a great plan for our lives. Sometimes you have to go through the pain in order to look back and see God's love and power.

Here is another story that I thought of. This one is about Job. Job was a wealthy man. He had seven sons, three daughters and many, many, servants. Job loved, feared, and honored God he also shunned evil. One day Satan decided to test Job to see if he really loved God. So, with God's permission and instructions that no harm can come to Job, Satan killed all of his sons, daughters and servants, leaving only his wife and one of his servants. His wife told him that he should curse God and die. Still Job loved him more than ever and did not curse him no matter what. God was pleased and gave everything back! His sheep, his servants, and blessed him with seven sons and three daughters and he lived until he was a hundred and fourteen! So as you can see no matter what God does he does out of love he even says it in Matthew 19:14, "Let the little children come to me, and do not forbid them; for such is the kingdom of heaven." So yes, even that little boy in the hospital is part of God's plan for us. Even when it looks like God simply hates us, stop and think what God did for us by sending down "his" only son to die on a cross to pay the price for our sins so you can live in peace with God, because no matter what God does He does it out of pure love.

We Christians do not have to worry when we die for God promised that if we believe that He gave us his only son Jesus to die for us we may go to heaven, a place where there is no pain or sadness a place of pure joy! And that is why we are here, to love and serve God because of what he did for us.

I'm very glad that you have the time to read this for it means so much to me for to spread the word to someone who does not have the joy that I have. I hope you understand that God is looking down at you with open arms for he wants so much for you to follow his amazing and perfect plan for your life!