

What does it mean for God to be *omnipotent* (all-powerful)?

Describe a time in human history when the almighty power of God was clearly at work.

Describe a time in church history when terrible things were happening to the followers of Christ that God could have prevented, but did not.

To the best of your knowledge, how did these agonizing trials impact the people of God?

What does God want us to hear? Based on the passage and the questions above, what “takeaways” do you think God has revealed to you?

WHAT DOES GOD WANT US TO DO?

Describe a difficult challenge that you’ve either experienced, or are going through now, that God could fix with a snap of his fingers – but did not, (or has not yet). ‘

How is that impacting your spiritual perspective? How is it impacting the people who are also being affected by this trial?

How can challenging experiences like this compel us to change our expectations, especially in regard to God’s decisions either to act, or (apparently) to not intervene?

What does God want us to do? Flowing out of our reading and interpretation, what action does this passage or the Spirit’s leading, call us to?

WHAT DOES GOD WANT ME TO DO?

Identify someone in your life who has recently experienced a significant loss, and offer to mourn with him or her. Follow the initial actions of Job’s friends, and just “sit silently” with them. Do not follow the later example of Job’s friends by offering speculative explanations as to why this horrible thing is happening to them.

If you are the one in need of assurance or comfort during a current life challenge—and you’re wondering why God doesn’t do something—tell a mature believe you trust about what’s going on, and ask him or her to walk with you during this difficult time.

What does God want ME to do? What is the personal application and action step God is calling you, personally, toward?