

How could God let this happen?"

Recently I got into a serious accident on the road. I had visited congregations in Tomsk, as well as in the Krasnoyarsk and Kemerovo regions of Central Siberia. Then, on the road from Kemerovo to Barnaul, I was cut off and forced off the road by another vehicle. I hit a snowdrift, and this led to my car doing a complete somersault, landing again on its wheels. It was badly damaged, of course, but thank God I got off with just slight injuries and bruises.

After returning to Omsk I heard the question - "how could God have let this happen to you? You are a pastor, after all!" I have no answer to this question. Just like there is no answer when asked about the pandemic or any other disease. But I can say for sure that God was active in this situation and that His hand saved and helped me. First of all, this was a serious accident, but I am alive! Every part of the car body is damaged, but I, personally, received only a few bruises - glory to Him! Secondly, even though the other driver did a bad thing - he fled the scene of the accident that he caused - as I was getting out of the smashed up car, two men were running over to me to offer help. And what important help it was! The car couldn't drive itself out of the ditch... but these two men had a 30-ton pneumatic jack, chains, shovels and a chainsaw at their disposal. It also wasn't simply a coincidence that a highway patrol officer happened to be in the area; he was willing to stop oncoming traffic as I was getting pulled out of the snowdrift. Furthermore, he helped me get the car to a safe spot and called a tow truck to get the vehicle to a service station. He waited with me until I was on my way. Next, the tow truck driver, in addition to picking up on the highway, stayed with me in the city as we rolled from one service station to another, searching for a body shop that would accept the job. After quick repairs to make the car drivable again, I drove another 200 km (120 miles), and spent the night in Novosibirsk. On the next day - 700 km (420 miles) more to Omsk. On the way, the heater stopped working and, since the door did not properly close, it began to get colder and the windshield was covered with frost. To be honest, it was then that I felt my first moment of panic in all these events. I wrote a message to brothers and sisters in Christ, asking them to pray. But since the cell phone signal was weak on the highway, the messages arrived only in the late afternoon. But here, too, I saw the work of God's hands. The sun became warmer and the frost on the glass began to thaw; the heater started sort-of working...enough, at least, that I wasn't totally frozen. And I got home! Only thanks to God's help! I don't think that God specially creates such difficult situations in order to then show His wonderful power but help. This is not the way God works - to make it harder for us in order that we would pray more to Him.

While on the road, it was not I that was great, but He! All glory to him!

Thank you for your prayers! And if God puts it on your heart to help "heal" the car, I will also be grateful for this chance to continue to serve the Lord's people in this way.

Vladimir Vinogradov, Omsk