

**Why Does
God Allow
Suffering
and Evil?**

God Is All-Powerful, But That Means There Are Certain Limitations

1. God cannot make Himself cease to exist.
2. By being all-powerful, He cannot stop existing.

This is where the problem of free will begins.

1. God did not create evil nor cause evil.
2. If I cannot choose to do evil or if God intervenes every time I commit evil, then I really do not have free will.
3. The blame is not on God but on us.

God Is All-Knowing, Which Means God Can Tolerate Horrible Things

1. God knows not only the present good and evil but also can know the future good and evil.
2. God has demonstrated how the very worst thing that ever happened in the history of the world ended up resulting in the very best things that ever happened in the history of the world.

Did God cause the evil? No, people made the evil choice.

Why did God allow it to happen?

First, if God intervenes then He is removing free will from humans

Second, this suffering was allowed because God knew suffering would result in a better result for humans.

It is important to realize that at the time of suffering, no one comprehends that there could be a good result from such evil.

1. But we must concede the possibility proven through the death of God on the cross.

God Is All-Good, But That Does Not Exclude Pain and Suffering

Third reason why God allows suffering

1. Through suffering we learn.

a. Moral character is formed through hardships.

b. Suffering teaches us how to be strong and how to endure.

c. We learn and grow from difficult, painful experiences not from constant good times.

Addressing Some Final Issues

Are evil people getting away with hurting others?

2 Corinthians 5:10

¹⁰ For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.

ESV

Compassionate God

We have a God who is totally aware of the suffering that is taking place in this world

Hebrews 2:17-18 “Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect...ESV

Hebrews 2:17-18 “Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.

18 For because he himself has suffered when tempted/tested, he is able to help those who are being tempted/tested.” ESV

Jesus did not have immediate justice either for those who killed him.

What did Jesus do? He trusted in God who will judge.

1 Peter 2:21-23

21 For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps.

22 He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth.

23 When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. ESV

a. God knows our suffering and He knows the evil we endure.

b. He has suffered also. Justice will come.

But this leads us to one other interesting point.

1. The goal is to become like God in our attitude and actions.

Romans 8:17-18

17 and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. ESV

Conclusion:

1. God allows suffering and evil because He wants a world where there is free will to choose to love Him.
2. Satan is at work in this world.
3. The world has natural laws that are necessary for its existence.
4. Diseases are also a time and chance, though some diseases are contracted by our evil actions or the evil actions of others.
5. Ultimately, we must remember that God cannot have the earth perfect because then we would not desire to be with God.

