

Why does God Allow Suffering in the world?

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There is an old saying - The trouble that troubles man is trouble. Job states, "Man that is born of woman, is of few days & full of troubles" (14:1).

We experience natural catastrophes, pain, disease, and death. There are moments in our lives when we ask the searching questions –

“Why do the innocent suffer?”

“Why do little children starve to death?”

“Where was God when my son was dying?”

“Where is God when I lost my job?”

Why doesn't God stop evil? In the USA every two hours a student commits suicide. Each year 30,000 people take their lives. We live in a world of pain, tears, and sorrow.

False Perceptions:

- 1. Suffering means God doesn't love me.**
- 2. Suffering means I am a bad person.**
- 3. Suffering means I must have no faith.**

The Reality of Evil

If there is no God where did evil come from? Is there a Moral law?

What must exist for evil to exist? If there is no absolute, what is evil?

Can we affirm something is wrong without knowing what is right? How can we say something is bad if we can't prove what is good?

Evil is a by-product of that which is good. A bad relationship between the good.

Evil has no metaphysical independent existence. It is like blindness, a lack of sight, or rust in a car, or hole in a garment.

Evil does not question the existence of God but merely his operation.

We suffer because we sin.

We suffer because others sin.

We suffer because we live in a fallen world

We suffer because God allows us to make choices

God is too wise to make a mistake, too kind to be cruel.

There is no sorrow that God does not share.

There is no pain that he does not feel.

There are no tears that he does not bare.

There is no darkness he does not know

By death God brings life. Through defeat comes victory. Through shame & pain came glory. Through hate and sin came grace. Through the Cross, God has turned evil and death to life and hope. The greatest evil has become our greatest good. God has turned the Cross into a powerful act of love.

1. Trails can test our faith.

Christians are like tea bags they are no good until they get into hot water. Job is insightful when he states, "When he has tested me, I will come forth as gold" 23:10.

The trails we face will either make us better or make us bitter.

2. Trails can turn our hearts to God.

In 2 Chronicles 15:4 we read, "But in their distress they turned to the Lord, the God of Israel, and he was found by them."

The reality of our faith is reflected at the depth of our suffering. Sometimes God uses trails to get our attention.

3. Trails can teach us new truth.

Hebrews 5:8 “He learned obedience from what he suffered.”

The reality of our faith is reflected in the depth of our suffering.

4. Trails can train us to minister.

There is a reason for suffering: The reason is service. 2 Corinthians 1:3-4 says, “If you have suffered then you can serve.”

5. Trails can transform our character.

A diamond dazzles with beauty when it is cut.

“The roots go deep when the wind is strong”

Suffering is not the last word. Rom 8: 35-39.

We are not alone in our pain Christ participated in our suffering.
The Christian life is not without trouble it's too glorious to be easy.

When God is all you have, you will find that he is all you need.

An oyster turns a grain of sand into a pearl.
When life gives you a lemon make lemonade.

A radio broadcaster visited a young man dying of cancer, he went in to encourage him. Instead, he went away encouraged because the young man looked at him and said, “I do not believe that the divine architect of the universe ever builds a staircase that leads to nowhere.”

When Your World Falls Apart

1. Remember God's Promise.
2. Rejoice in God's Presence.
3. Reflect in God's Prescription.

4. Relate with God's People.

And the God of all grace, who called you to his glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm, and steadfast.

1Pet 5:10