

“How Can a Good God Allow Suffering?”
God Questions
Part 5

How can a good God allow suffering?

know the way?"

John Chapter 14 – 17

- ❖ ***Jesus promised them a home in heaven***
- ❖ ***He promised to send the Holy Spirit to be with them constantly***
- ❖ ***If they follow His Way & Abide in His Love; they will experience His joy***
- ❖ ***He prayed for them***
- ❖ ***“In this world you will have trouble” John 16:33***

You'll Learn more about God & more about Yourself

You'll understand God is Passionately in Love with You & Your desire to love God will grow

“Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.” Galatians 6:7

The Bible tells us God created men and women with Free will equipping them to express love to God and each other

It's impossible to truly love unless you have a choice

We can't truly love God without having the freedom to choose not to love God. For this reason, God gave humans the capacity for choice. Unfortunately, humanity used its free will to NOT choose God - bringing about evil, the sin problem

Two Categories of evil

Manmade evil where humans do things that hurt humans

Natural evil; things like earthquakes, tornados, outbreaks of disease, and like

***“For all creation is waiting eagerly for that future day when God will reveal who his children really are. Against its will, all creation was subjected to God’s curse. But with eager hope, the creation looks forward to the day when it will join God’s children in glorious freedom from death and decay.
(Romans 8:19–21 NLT)***

“When we humans told God to shove off, He partially honored our request. Nature was cursed. Genetic breakdown and disease began. Pain and death became part of the human experience ”

- God did not create evil
- God did not create suffering
- God did not create death

God did create the potential for evil to enter the world BECAUSE That's what comes with free will

- It was humans beings, In our free will, who brought that potential evil into reality

Though suffering is not good, God can and does use it to accomplish good

God can use pain to draw people to Himself

The meaning and purpose of suffering in history is that it leads to repentance. Only after suffering, only after disaster does Israel, do nations, do individuals turn back to God.” Peter Kreeft



“God whispers to us in our pleasures, He speaks to us in our conscience, but He shouts to us in our pain. It is His megaphone to rouse a deaf world.”

*C. S. Lewis, the Oxford professor and well-known author of *The Chronicles of Narnia*,*



***“I have known more of
God since I came to this
bed than through all of
my life.”***

Ralph Erskine

God can use trials to shape His children

“Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope.” Romans 5:3–4

“Son though he was, [Jesus] learned obedience from what he suffered.” Hebrews 5:8



“God can use suffering . . . to strengthen our commitment to Him, to force us to depend on grace, to bind us together with other believers, to produce the sermon, to foster sensitivity, to discipline our minds, to spend our time wisely, to stretch our hope, to cause us to know Christ better and deeper, to make us long for truth, to lead us to repentance from sin, to teach us to give thanks in times of sorrow, to increase our faith, to strengthen our character, and on and on and on.” Lee Strobel, author

God uses bad circumstances to bring about good ends

“And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.”

Romans 8:28

“You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives” Genesis 50:20

The day is coming when suffering will cease and evil will be judged

“The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.” 2 Peter 3:9

Present suffering pales in comparision to the
Good God has in store for His followers

*“I would rather be in this
wheelchair, knowing God,
than on my feet without
Him.” Joni Eareckson Tada,*



***“For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all”
2 Corinthians 4:17***

***“I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us”
Romans 8:18***

*We decide whether our pain is going to harden
or shape us*

*In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I
have overcome the world” John 16:33*

*“I believe that all suffering is at least an opportunity
for potential good. It’s up to our free will to
actualize that potential. Not all of us benefit from
suffering and learn from it. Because that’s up to us.
It’s up to our free will.”*

God promises to walk with you in your pain and suffering ... if ...

You let Him

“The LORD is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.” Psalm 34:18

“This is what God the LORD says—the Creator of the heavens, who stretches them out, who spreads out the earth with all that springs from it, who gives breath to its people, and life to those who walk on it: . . . I will take hold of your hand.” Isaiah 42:5–6

*“In this world you will have trouble.. ‘Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me... .And behold, I (Jesus) am with you always.....
John 16:33, Psalm 23:4, Matthew 28:20*

Singer Songwriter Austin French's Song; "Why God"

"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world" (John 16:33).

This week:

- 1. Read John 14 – 17***
- 2. Memorize John 16:33***

the way?