

“How Can a Good God Allow
Suffering?”
Questions for God

How can a good God allow suffering?

***"I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me.**
Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows.
But take heart, because I have overcome the world."*

John 16:33



How can a good God allow suffering?

Your Choices have consequences

God created men and women with free will,

- equipping them to express love to God and each other

We can't truly love,
without having the freedom to choose not to love

“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

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

Though suffering is painful, God can and does use it to
accomplish good



“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, Oxford professor
and author of***

***The Chronicles of Narnia, &
Screwtape Letters***

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.”

Author Lee Strobel

“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

➤ *God can use bad circumstances to bring about good*

“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 NIV

“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

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



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

Joni Eareckson Tada

Present suffering pales in comparison
to the good, God has in store for His followers

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

2 Corinthians 4:17

*“I (Paul) consider that our present sufferings are not worth
comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us”*

Romans 8:18

“In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world”

John 16:33

You decide whether pain

- *is going to make you bitter*
- *or make you better*

**God promises to walk with you in 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

This is God's promise

“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

