

God Questions
Part 3: How can a good God allow suffering?
John 16:33

- God did not create evil or suffering. He gave us **free will**, and we rebelled. The result is both “natural” and “manmade” disasters.
- If God eliminated all pain and suffering, we would either have a) a world with no choice but to be perfect all the time; or b) a world with choice but **without me**.

God allows suffering because ...

1. **Our actions have consequences** (Galatians 6:7; the law of **harvest** says we reap what we sow)
2. **God disciplines those He loves** (Hebrews 12:5-6; so we will repent and mature)

“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

3. **God works through it to bring good to His people** (Romans 8:28; Genesis 50:20)

“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

- A life without struggles is a very **shallow** life.

4. **God is waiting for more to be saved** (2 Peter 3:9)
5. **God knows it will be worth it in the end**

No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined what God has prepared for those who love him. 1 Corinthians 2:9; Isaiah 64:4 (New Living Translation)

¹⁶Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. ¹⁷For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. ¹⁸So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal. 2 Corinthians 4:16-18 (NIV)