

Why Does God Allow Suffering?

If God exists, and if God is loving, and if God is all-powerful, then why does God allow suffering to exist on the earth? This question has been asked since the beginning of humankind. It is such an important question that an entire branch of theology has been established to address it, i.e. [“theodicy”](#).

With or without theodicy and its human-based analysis, the best answers to this question come directly from God in the Bible, as follows:

1. Suffering is an Earthly Reality Caused by Sin.

[\(Genesis 3:14-19\)](#) [\(Genesis 6:5-7\)](#) [\(Job 20:19\)](#) [\(Psalm 10:2\)](#) [\(Psalm 119:85\)](#)
[\(Proverbs 19:15\)](#) [\(Proverbs 19:19\)](#) [\(Ecclesiastes 4:1-4\)](#) [\(Ecclesiastes 9:3\)](#)
[\(Matthew 10:22\)](#) [\(Luke 21:10-12\)](#) [\(John 15:20\)](#) [\(John 16:2-3\)](#) [\(Acts 14:22\)](#)
[\(Romans 8:20-21\)](#) [\(2 Timothy 3:12-13\)](#) [\(1 Peter 4:12\)](#)

2. God Allows Suffering, in Order to Accomplish Higher Purposes.

[\(Genesis 45:4-5\)](#) [\(Isaiah 53:4-5\)](#) [\(Isaiah 53:10-11\)](#) [\(Luke 24:25-27\)](#)
[\(John 9:1-3\)](#) [\(Acts 8:1-4\)](#)

3. God Uses Suffering to Test Faith, to Discipline, and to Build Character.

[\(Job 1:20-22\)](#) [\(Job 2:3-6\)](#) [\(Job 5:17\)](#) [\(Jeremiah 30:11\)](#) [\(Zechariah 13:8-9\)](#)
[\(John 15:1-2\)](#) [\(Romans 5:3-4\)](#) [\(Hebrews 12:7-11\)](#) [\(2 Corinthians 12:7-9\)](#)
[\(Philippians 4:11-13\)](#) [\(2 Thessalonians 1:4-5\)](#) [\(James 1:2-4\)](#) [\(1 Peter 5:30\)](#)

4. Suffering Allows Us to Follow in Christ’s Example.

[\(2 Corinthians 1:5\)](#) [\(Philippians 3:10-11\)](#) [\(Colossians 1:24\)](#)
[\(1 Thessalonians 2:14-15\)](#) [\(1 Peter 2:21-25\)](#) [\(1 Peter 4:1-2\)](#) [\(1 Peter 4:13\)](#)

5. Suffering Enables Us to Better Help Others.

[\(2 Corinthians 1:3-4\)](#) [\(2 Corinthians 1:6-7\)](#) [\(2 Corinthians 1:10-11\)](#)
[\(2 Corinthians 4:15-16\)](#) [\(Hebrews 10:23-24\)](#) [\(Hebrews 10:32-34\)](#)
[\(Hebrews 13:3\)](#)

6. Suffering Enables Us to Repay Evil With Good.

([Matthew 5:39-40](#)) ([Matthew 5:44](#)) ([Luke 6:27-31](#)) ([Luke 6:32-36](#))
([Romans 12:14](#)) ([1 Corinthians 4:12](#)) ([1 Peter 3:9](#)) ([1 Peter 4:19](#))

7. God is Concerned and Compassionate about Our Suffering, Gives us Strength to Endure it, and Gives us Peace Through Christ.

([Psalm 23:4](#)) ([Psalm 69:29](#)) ([Isaiah 57:1-2](#)) ([Jeremiah 15:15-16](#)) ([Jeremiah 17:14](#))
([Jeremiah 17:18](#)) ([Lamentations 3:22-23](#)) ([Habakkuk 1:2-4, 2:2-4](#)) ([Matthew 5:3-4](#))
([Mark 5:34](#)) ([Mark 8:1-2](#)) ([John 11:33-36](#)) ([John 14:1-2](#)) ([John 14:27](#)) ([John 16:33](#))
([Romans 5:1-5](#)) ([Romans 8:35-39](#)) ([1 Corinthians 13:6-8](#)) ([2 Corinthians 1:3-4](#))
([2 Corinthians 1:5](#)) ([2 Corinthians 1:10](#)) ([2 Thessalonians 1:6-7](#)) ([2 Timothy 3:10-11](#))
([James 5:10-11](#))

8. The Sufferings of This World are Nothing Compared to the Joys of Salvation in Christ

([Matthew 5:12](#)) ([Matthew 10:28](#)) ([Mark 10:29-30](#)) ([Romans 8:18](#))
([2 Corinthians 4:17-18](#)) ([Philippians 3:7-8](#)) ([2 Timothy 2:8-10](#)) ([Hebrews 10:34](#))
([Hebrews 11:35-40](#)) ([1 Peter 4:13](#)) ([Revelation 21:2-4](#))

9. So for Christians, God has Transformed Suffering into a Blessing

([Matthew 5:10-12](#)) ([2 Corinthians 12:9-10](#)) ([Philippians 1:29](#)) ([1 Peter 2:19-20](#))
([1 Peter 3:14](#)) ([1 Peter 3:17](#)) ([1 Peter 4:14](#)) ([1 Peter 4:16](#))