

Why Does God allow Suffering?

Sometimes we wonder, “Lord, Why me? I’m trying to walk the straight and narrow way. I try to avoid trouble. God, are you displeased with me? Is that why I’m suffering? What does the Bible say? Let’s begin with what the Bible does not say.

The Bible does not promise that Christians will have a life of health and prosperity. Jesus said in Matt 5:45, “God makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.”

Second, suffering does not always mean God is displeased and angry with us

In John 9:2 the disciples asked Jesus “Who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” Jesus said, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned.”

The question I want to try to answer is, “Why does God allow suffering and how can it help us to be better Christians?”

I. There are many reasons for suffering:

1. Sometimes people suffer because of ignorance.
2. Suffering can come as a result of an accident. (Luke 13)
3. Suffering can come as a result of aging. (Eccl. 12; 2 Cor 4:16).
4. Disease (Luke 8:43)
5. Sometimes people suffer because of the sins of others or from their own sins.
6. When it comes to life after death, many will suffer because they refused to obey the gospel:

In John 5:29 Jesus said, “those who have practiced evil will receive the resurrection of condemnation.”

7. Suffering occurs because we live in a fallen world. (Rom 5:12, Rom 8:22).

Jesus said in John 16:33, “In the world you will have tribulation, but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.”

II. What are Benefits of Suffering?

#1. **Suffering causes us to be thankful for the church:** Rom 12:15.

#2. **Suffering causes us to rely more on God:** 2 Cor 12:7

#3. **Suffering helps us gain a better understanding for the difficulties of others.**

2 Cor 1:3-4, “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.”

#4. **Suffering helps us to be thankful for our blessings.**

#5. **Suffering helps to see the value of prayer.**

#6. **Suffering grows our Faith.** (James 1:2-4)

#7. **Suffering can bring people back to God**

Psm 119: 67, “Before I was afflicted, I went astray, but now I keep Your word.”

Vs 71, “It is good for me that I have been afflicted, That I may learn Your statutes.”

#8. **Suffering helps us to identify what Christ went through for us.**

Phil 3:10, “That I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death.”

#9. **Sorrow helps us to be thankful for heaven.**

11 Cor 5:1, “Now we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands. Meanwhile we groan, longing to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling.”

Close: Heb 12:2, “Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith.” By fixing your eyes on Him, Jesus can help carry you through the sorrow and heartaches of life.