



## If God is Good, Why do Bad Things Happen?

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The inability to reconcile the existence of suffering and evil in the world with a good and all powerful God, is a huge sticking point for many people. How might we respond?

### 1. The Predicament of Suffering... What are the options?

- There is no God?
- Evil and Pain are just an illusion?
- God's power is limited?
- God is punishing us? John 9:2

### 2. The Origin of Evil and Suffering and its Implications

- Evil is defined as Good Corrupted
  - It is the absence of Good/It is the enemy of Good
  - God Made Evil Possible (Genesis 1:26-28)
  - We made it Actual (Mark 7:20-23 NLT)
    - Sin has a corrupting effect upon entire world (Genesis 3:17-19)

### 3. The Defeat and Final Deliverance from Evil and Suffering

- God has and will redeem the world through Christ (Hebrews 12:2)

*For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are- yet was without sin. Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need. Hebrews 4:15-16 (NIV)*

### • Present Reality: God Uses Suffering

- Some pain Warns
- Some pain Teaches Romans 5:3-4
- Some pain Purifies James 1:3
- Some pain is a Mystery *There are some things the LORD our God has kept secret, but there are some things he has let us know. Deuteronomy 29:29 (NCV)*

### • Future Promise: God overcomes Suffering.

*For our present troubles are small and won't last very long. Yet they produce for us a glory that vastly outweighs them and will last forever! 2 Corinthians 4:17 (NLT)*

*The Lord isn't really being slow about His promise, as some people think. No, He is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to be destroyed, but wants everyone to repent. 2 Peter 3:9 (NLT)*