

# Why Does God Allow Suffering in the World?

Romans 8:18

For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

Romans 8:22-23

For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.

Romans 8:31-32

What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?

Romans 8:35

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?

Romans 8:38-39

For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

“Human life has no meaning. Humans are the outcome of blind evolutionary processes that operate without goal or purpose. Our actions are not part of some divine cosmic plan... any meaning that people ascribe to their lives is just a delusion.”

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Yuval Noah Harari

“Suffering is -

Diverse –

- . Degrees of suffering
- . Length of time
- . Individual
- . Types of suffering

The problem of pain is a question mark turned like a fishhook in the human heart.

Suffering is universal

- . Not “if” but “when”
- . Sometimes a result of our choices
- . Sometimes a result of the choices of others.
- . Sometimes a result of unknown reasons.

Human Response to suffering -

1. MAD at it or at God?
2. Manage it.
3. Minimize it.

Man on park bench with girlfriend -

“I can’t promise I will change but I can promise I’ll pretend to change.”

4. Maximize it.
5. Medicate it.
6. Moralize it.

We as humans can get stuck seeking the answer to the question “Why?”  
Why?

- . Consequence of sin in the world Rom. 8:22
- . Result of human choices Gal. 6:6-7
- . Impact of Satan and His kingdom  
Jn. 10:10a
- . God’s greater plan that I cannot see  
Jn. 9:3  
I need God! I am powerless!

Instead, we should ask the question – “who?”

(The answer is found in a person NOT in more information.)

If you run toward the Lord with your suffering – what kind of response will you find?

## **1. He is near.**

The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit.  
Ps. 34:18

Jesus promises – “I will be with you always.” Matt. 28:20

I will never leave you or forsake you. Heb. 13:5

He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds. Ps. 147:3

(The hungry, the thirsty, the stranger, the naked, the sick, the prisoner.)

Truly, I say to you, as you did it one of the least of these, my brothers, you did it to me.  
Matt. 25:40

## **2. He cares.**

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Heb. 4:15

Casting all your anxieties on Him, because He cares for you. 1 Peter 5:7

Cast your burden on the Lord and  
He will sustain you. Ps. 55:22

He guards the young.  
He seeks the stray.  
He finds the lost.  
He guides the faithful.  
He rights the wronged.  
He avenges the abused.  
He defends the weak.  
He comforts the oppressed.  
He welcomes the prodigal.  
He heals the sick.  
He cleanses the dirty.  
He beautifies the barren.  
He restores the failure.  
He mends the broken.  
He blesses the poor.  
He fills the empty.  
He clothes the naked.  
He satisfies the hungry.  
He elevates the humble.  
He forgives the sinner.  
He raises the dead!

## **3. He knows!**

He was despised and rejected by men; a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. Is. 53:3

## **4. He provides!**

. Mercy – The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases: His mercies never come to an end. Lam. 3:22

“Do not fret over your heavy troubles, for they are the heralds of weighty mercies.”  
Charles Spurgeon

. Power – My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness... for the sake of Christ, then I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions and calamities... 2 Cor. 12:9-10

Is it true – God only gives what you can handle or He gives you what you can't handle on your own?

... for when I am weak, then I am strong. 2 Cor. 12:10

This poor man cried and the Lord heard him and saved him out of all his troubles. Ps. 34:6

“Our problems are great, but God is greater than the problems.”  
Pakistan Christians under great persecution

- . Healing - ... and with His stripes we are healed.
- . Spiritual healing of the heart
- . Emotional healing
- . Relational healing
- . Physical healing

“He will wipe away every tear.”  
Rev. 21:4

. Wisdom

Jesus answered, “It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in Him. Jn. 9:3

We must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day... (4)

“God's grace recycles our garbage into instruments for His service.”  
David Seamonds

As long as I am in the world,  
I am the light of the world. (5)

See more clearly what God is doing

. To cause us to rely on Him – Isa. 40:29-31

. To build up our faith - Heb. 11:1,6;

1 Peter 1:6-7

. To share God's comfort with others

2 Cor. 1:5

. To let go of the world and cling to heaven

Rom 8:18

. To help us make better choices - Ps. 1

. To see more clearly what really matters

Ps. 119:18

“Pain is God's megaphone

to rouse a deaf world.”

C. S Lewis

Peace.

And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Phil. 4:7

Comfort

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort... 2 Cor. 1:3

... who comforts us in all our affliction

(4)

“God's presence with God's resources.”

How?

. Through the Holy Spirit – Acts 9:31

. Through His Word – Ps. 119:28

. Through God's people – Lk. 22:31-32

“The strangest truth of the Gospel is that redemption comes through suffering.”

Milo Chapman

Desperation precedes deliverance.

Grief precedes glory.

The cross precedes the crown.

Servitude precedes reigning.

Defeat precedes forgiveness.

Brokenness precedes healing.

Suffering precedes closeness with God.