

## GOD QUESTIONS

### How Can God Allow all this Evil and Suffering?

#### The Challenge Is Posed Like This:

1. A good God would destroy evil.
2. An all-powerful God could destroy evil.
3. Evil is not destroyed.
4. Therefore, there cannot possibly be such a good and powerful God.

#### HOW ARE WE TO UNDERSTAND THE PRESENCE OF SUFFERING AND EVIL?

##### 1. MANY ACCEPT THE EXISTENCE OF EVIL AND GOD

"If the universe is so bad . . . how on earth did human beings ever come to attribute it to the activity of a wise and good Creator?"  
– C S Lewis

Does the presence of suffering automatically mean the absence of God? To believe wholeheartedly in a loving and omnipotent Father, do I have to paper over the reality of evil and pain around me?

Many people who admit to the reality of evil are also able to believe in the reality of a loving and all-powerful God.

##### 2. THE PROBLEM OF EVIL IS A PROBLEM FOR EVERYONE

"The shadows prove the sunshine. There can be no sunshine without shadows, but there can't be shadows without sunshine. In other words, there can be good without evil but there cannot be evil without good."  
– Frank Turek

"Could there really be any such thing as horrifying wickedness (if there were no God and we just evolved)? I don't see how. There can be such a thing only if there is a way that rational creatures are supposed to live, obliged to live . . . if you think there really is such a thing as horrifying wickedness then you have a powerful . . . argument for the reality of God."  
– Alvin Plantinga

##### 3. THERE MAY BE A GOOD REASON BEHIND THE SUFFERING

"Just because you cannot see or imagine a good reason why God might allow suffering to happen doesn't mean there can't be one."  
– Timothy Keller

**And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.**  
Romans 8:28

**You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.**  
Genesis 20:50

"Since God is the highest good, he would not allow any evil to exist in his works unless his omnipotence and goodness were such as to bring good even out of evil."  
– St Augustine

##### 4. HUMAN FREEDOM DEMANDS THE POSSIBILITY OF EVIL CHOICES

"A freedom that was prevented from being exercised whenever it was going to be misused simply wouldn't be freedom."  
– Gregory Boyd

##### 5. REMEMBER THAT GOD SUFFERS TOO FOR THE EVIL IN OUR WORLD.

"There is still a question mark against human suffering, but over it we boldly stamp another mark, the cross which symbolizes divine suffering. 'The cross of Christ . . . is God's only self-justification in such a world as ours.'  
– John Stott

**"For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us."**  
Paul - Romans 8:18