

How Can a Good God Allow Suffering?

Study Questions

Getting Started

1. What insight, principle, or observation from this week's message did you find to be most helpful, eye-opening or troubling? Explain.
2. It seems like most conversations involve some level of complaining. What are some reasons that people complain?
3. When faced with intense suffering individuals will often blame God. What might be some reasons that we blame God?
4. Review the three truths about God. If all three of these are true, how do they challenge the way we interpret suffering in our lives?
5. Pastor developed how the ability to choose (freewill) means that man could choose any option. How does this help us to understand why God would allow suffering?
6. Pastor mentioned that we read lists of over 25 Biblical reasons for suffering. He shared five. Which one stands out to you and why?
7. We don't often think of the good that comes from suffering. Can you think of an illustration from you own life that where suffering resulted in good for you or others?
8. There is no reason to endure unnecessary suffering. Yet, we can also focus to much on removing suffering. How might a person know when to accept what God is doing?
9. How does knowing there is a benefit to our suffering make it more endurable?
10. What stands out to you from the passage in Revelation?

Digging Deeper

11. Take some time and do a work search on "suffering" in the New Testament. You will be surprise what God has to say.

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The God Questions

Sunday November 22, 2015

"The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised.""
Luke 9:22 ESV

Three Truth About God

1. **God is** _____
2. **God is** _____
3. **God is** _____

So Why Does God Allow Suffering?

God has given me the _____!

"And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.""
Genesis 2:16–17 ESV

"And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day."
Genesis 1:31 ESV

"For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God."
Romans 8:20–21 ESV

Does My Suffering Serve a Purpose?

1. It Gets My _____

“So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited. Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. But he said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.’ ... For when I am weak, then I am strong.”
2 Corinthians 12:7–10 ESV

2. It Reminds Me of God’s _____

“And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons? ‘My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary when reproved by him. For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives.’”
Hebrews 12:5–6 ESV

3. It Reveals the _____ me

“‘But when he came to himself, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you.’”
Luke 15:17–18 ESV

4. It Helps Me _____

“Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.”
James 1:2–4 ESV

5. It Prepares Me to _____

“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 affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.”
2 Corinthians 1:3–4 ESV

How Should I Respond to Suffering?

1. Look for a Way to _____

“No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.”
1 Corinthians 10:13 ESV

2. Embrace what God is _____

“But he said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.’ Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.”
2 Corinthians 12:9 ESV

3. Rejoice that God is _____

“Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance,”
Romans 5:3 ESV

4. Remember Jesus _____

“For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake,”
Philippians 1:29 ESV

“Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, ‘Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.’ And he who was seated on the throne said, ‘Behold, I am making all things new.’ Also he said, ‘Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.’ And he said to me, ‘It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment. The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son.’”
Revelation 21:1–7 ESV