

August 15th 2021

Why Would God Allow Suffering?

Have you ever asked the question how could an all good, all powerful God, allow pain and suffering in this world?

Are there certain circumstances you were under when you asked this question and, if so, what were they?

Can you think of any times in your life where someone allowed you to suffer and it turned out to be for your benefit?

What are some examples in your own life where it was the right decision to let someone else experience suffering?

What would our world be like if nobody experienced physical pain?

What about emotional pain?

Why do so many people suffer from anxiety and depression when The Bible says in Psalm 34:18 The Lord is near to the broken hearted and saves those crushed in spirit?

Read Romans 5:3-5

3 We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. 4 And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation. 5 And this hope will not lead to disappointment.

How does suffering develop endurance?

What other virtues can it develop in people?

Why do some people turn to God during suffering and why do some people turn away?

How can suffering allow you to demonstrate greater love?

Read Psalm 139:1-6,16-18

1

**O Lord, you have examined my heart
and know everything about me.**

2

**You know when I sit down or stand up.
You know my thoughts even when I'm far away.**

3

You see me when I travel
and when I rest at home.
You know everything I do.

4

You know what I am going to say
even before I say it, Lord.

5

You go before me and follow me.
You place your hand of blessing on my head.

6

Such knowledge is too wonderful for me,
too great for me to understand!

16 You saw me before I was born.

Every day of my life was recorded in your book.
Every moment was laid out
before a single day had passed.

17

How precious are your thoughts about me, [b] O God.
They cannot be numbered!

18

I can't even count them;
they outnumber the grains of sand!
And when I wake up,
you are still with me!

Gabe said that to say that God is not morally justified in allowing suffering, would be an act of extreme arrogance. Why did he say that? Do you agree or disagree?

What is "Middle Knowledge"?

Answer: Knowing what *would* happen under different circumstances.

How does God's possession of Middle Knowledge take the sting out of the question "How Could an all-good all-powerful God allow suffering?"