



911.011

UNDERSTANDING
SUFFERING
SUFFERING

How Can A Loving God Allow Suffering?

The condition of our planet indicates that something has gone terribly wrong.

Couldn't God have created a world where nothing would ever go wrong?

Couldn't He have made a world where

people would never have the ability to make

a bad choice or ever hurt another person?

Couldn't He have made a world where acts of terrorism, mosquitos, weeds, and cancer would never exist? He could have—but He didn't.

The great gift of human freedom that He has given to us, the ability to choose, carries with it the risk of making wrong choices.

Therefore, the first and most basic

answer to the problem of the

existence of suffering is that it is the

direct result of sin's entrance into the world. Suffering alerts us that

a spiritual disease is wracking

our planet. Many times our

troubles may be merely the

side-effects of living in a fallen world, through no direct fault

of our own. This message is an

attempt to give you some

peace through understanding.

My prayer is that you will feel

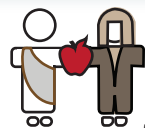
encouraged and get a better

handle on the why's of suffering.



blessingscommunitychurch.org
jesse@blessingscommunitychurch.org

Often we tend to believe that we have the mind of God on the cause of suffering. More times than not we are probably partially right. By that I mean we as finite creatures can't possibly know all the reasons for suffering. What we can do is list some of the reasons for suffering and see if they apply.



1. Sin enters the world.

Genesis 1:1-1, Rom. 5:12-19 / Rom. 8:19-22



2. Suffering can be caused by people.

Genesis 4:7,8 / 37:12-36 / Exodus 1 / Matthew 2:16-18



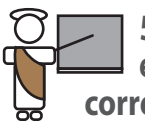
3. Suffering can also be caused by Satan and demons.

Romans 8:37



4. Suffering can be directly related to the consequences of my sin.

Galatians 6:7-8 / 1 John 1:9



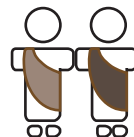
5. We may be experiencing correction that may cause us to suffer.



6. Direct Judgment of God.

2 Pet. 2:3-9.

7. While none of us like to suffer, can we find any benefits while going through it?



Suffering has the potential to produce patience, maturity of character and hope.

James 1:2-4

Suffering forces us to rethink.

Suffering helps us to see our need for other believers.

Suffering helps us to meet the needs of others as we allow Jesus to live through us.

We cry out for complete answers!

God offers Himself instead. And that's enough. If we know that we can trust Him, we don't need full explanations. It's enough to know that our pain and suffering are not meaningless. It's

enough to know that God still rules the universe and that He really does care about us as individuals.

The greatest evidence of God's concern for us can be found by looking at Jesus. God loved our suffering world so much that He sent His Son to agonize and die for us, to free us from being sentenced to eternal sorrow (John 3:16-18). Because of Jesus, we can avoid the worst of all pain, the pain of eternal separation from God. And because of Him, we can endure even the worst of tragedies now because of the strength He puts within us and the hope He sets before us.

The gift of God is for all people who are willing to put their trust in one person Jesus for their salvation. It starts with a simple prayer:

Dear Jesus, I know I'm a sinner and because of that I will be eternally separated from you for eternity in a place called Hell. I now understand that you paid for my sins making it possible to have a personal relationship with you. I believe that you died on the cross, was buried and then resurrected after 3 days to prove that you indeed are God and that you ascended into heaven and now sit at the right hand of the Father. I now put all my trust in you and thank you for loving me enough to die for me.