

# Why Does God Allow Evil and Suffering?

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See references on the back.

Many people wonder, if God is loving, good, and all-powerful, why does He allow evil and suffering? Why doesn't God just stop all evil and all suffering? Let's look at God, evil, and suffering.

## 1. The Attributes of God



**God is loving** - God's very essence is love. "for God is love" (1 John 4:8).

**God is good** - "No one is good but One, *that is*, God" (Mark 10:18).  
God's standard for goodness is much higher than man's.

**God is all-powerful** - His names that God has given to us reveal His attribute of power: **a) El** - The Strong One (Exodus 15:2)

**b) El Olam** - The Eternal One (Genesis 21:2)

**c) Elohim** - All-Powerful One, Creator - (Genesis 1:1-3)

"Behold, I *am* the Lord, the God of all flesh. Is there anything too hard for Me" (Jeremiah 32:27)?

**God is relational** - He wants a relationship with us. He wants to be our "Heavenly Father" (Psalm 68:5, Psalm 34:17, Matthew 6:9).

## 2. The Essence of Evil (*The Oxford dictionary defines evil as - "bad, wrong, wicked."*)

The Hebrew Word - *rasha'* - "wickedness" or "evil" in the *moral* sense is not to be confused with the other Hebrew word for "evil" which is *ra'ah*, which means "calamity." God did not create "evil". Evil is an individual's choice to not follow God nor conform to His moral standards. (1) The Bible calls this "sin." When someone, a person or even a spirit, turns away from God, they are making a wrong choice, sinning, and are walking on the path that leads away from goodness toward what is increasingly wrong, bad, wicked, and finally evil.

## 3. The Causes of Suffering - Suffering can be caused by:

- other humans, by their mistakes and carelessness. Unfortunately, the troubles of life happen (Psalm 34:17).
- man's wrong choices, selfishness, and often evil choices, such as injustice, violence, war, etc.
- evil, demonic activity (Isaiah 14:12-15, 2 Peter 2:4, Mark 7:25; 9:25, Luke 9:42).
- natural causes - diseases, accidents, natural disasters.

So now that we know more about God, evil, and suffering, we can look at why God allows evil and suffering.

## 4. Why Does God Allow Evil and Suffering? There are generally five reasons. We will call these the "Five F's."

**1st F - "Fatherhood of God"** - In the Beginning, God had intended for mankind to live in a loving, obedient relationship with Him. (Malachi 2:10) He created us and placed us on the earth, where we were to have dominion over it all. (Genesis 1:28) We have broken that relationship, so we have lost that godly influence to do what is right. God has made a way to restore that relationship and influence. We will discuss that later.

**2nd F - "Free Will"** - God gave all mankind a free will. We can all make our own choices. (Genesis 2:16, 3:6-7). He will not cross anyone's free will. (2) Our choices can be right or wrong, good or evil. With every choice there are natural consequences that effect us and others around us, now and in the future. If God takes away those consequences, people will have no concept of good and evil, of obedience and sin, and will not repent.

**3rd F - "Fall"** - When mankind, through Adam and Eve, were tempted by Satan, and chose to disobey God's commands, we broke our relationship with God. Then we fell into sin and that sin nature was passed on to all our descendants, to all of mankind. (2)



We want to be the boss of our lives and “do our own thing”, without including God.

Mankind’s fall mirrored what had happened earlier to some of the angels. When Lucifer, Satan, and 1/3 of the angels choose to rebel against God, they were cast out of heaven and some fell to the earth (Ezekiel 28:1-26; Isaiah 14:12-15, Revelation 12:4).

The fall of mankind caused many consequences. The earth became cursed (natural disasters) and man would have a troubled life (Genesis 3:17-19), women would have pain during childbirth (Genesis 3:16-17), and all mankind would eventually die because of their sins (disease, old age, accidents, etc. - Genesis 2:17, 3:19). Mankind was sent out of God’s presence because we chose our will over God’s will for our lives (Genesis 3:23-24). Satan and demons still tempt us, as in the beginning, to do wrong (Genesis 3:1-5; Ephesians 6:12).

**4th F - “Faith”** - Through the Bible and the leading of the Holy Spirit, we

know that God wants to restore that loving, obedient relationship with us. He sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to pay for our sins (Romans 6:23, 5:8). If we repent and accept that payment, our sins are forgiven and God adopts us (Ephesians 1:50). Then He is our Heavenly Father, we are the children of God. The world is waiting for God’s children to help (Romans 8:19).



We are living in a world of fallen humanity and we live surrounded with the consequences of sin, of evil and the resulting suffering. But we have faith that we can learn from suffering (Hebrews 12:6-7) (2). God can turn what evil meant to harm us, into something good (Romans 8:28), we can grow through suffering (James 1:2-8), and we can help others to alleviate their suffering. Much pain is caused because we refuse to help others (Matthew 25: 35-37). When we are in trouble, we can call to our Heavenly Father and He will help us. “The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears, And delivers them out of all their troubles” (Psalm 34:17).

**5th F -“Future”** - We need to see suffering in the context of the future (Romans 8:18). (2) God

is judging some people’s sins now (Acts 13:11,12:22-23) and will judge all people (Revelation 20:11-15), and demons (2 Peter 2:4) in the future. It is easy to be upset and say, “God, what is taking You so long?” The Lord’s timing is perfect. Jesus will come to this earth to judge righteously (Psalm 96:13). He is postponing His return, waiting for more people to repent of their sins (2 Peter 3:9). When He comes, He will make a new earth where there is no evil, war (Isaiah 2:4), or suffering (Revelation 21:4).

**Finally** - We will never understand all suffering and evil. Let’s look again at both through the **Five “F’s”**. God wants to be our **Father**, He gave us a **Free-will** so we could make our own choices. Because mankind chose to “do our own thing,” the world is now in a **Fallen** state. We have **Faith** that God, through Jesus, wants to restore that relationship, that something good can come out of suffering, and that God will deliver us. In the **Future**, God will judge all sin, and wipe away evil and suffering, and we will be in heaven with Him (John 14:2-3).

**Forever** - If you have not yet repented of your sins you can now. Here is a suggested prayer.

“Dear Jesus, forgive me for all my sins and cleanse me from all my sinful ways. I repent from trying to live my life my way and ask You to be my Lord. Make me the kind of person You want me to be. Right now, Jesus, I open my heart and receive You as my personal Lord and Savior. I want to have a new vibrant relationship with God, my Heavenly Father. AMEN!”

**GOD BLESS YOU!**

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(1)“What the Bible Says about the Origin of Evil,” ([www.focusonthefamily.com](http://www.focusonthefamily.com))

(2) Cristian Medical Comment -“Why does God Allow Suffering” - Christian Medical Comment, <https://pjsaunders.blogspot.com/2012/09/why-does-god-allow-suffering.html>.)

