



Why does God allow
suffering?

How should we
respond?

The story of Job is very challenging and raises some difficult questions such as; Does God cause suffering? Why does He allow it? Why do the innocent suffer? How should we respond to suffering?

There are no easy answers that can be used to satisfy everyone's questions. However, there are things we can take away from the book of Job.

- God is good. He does not cause suffering.
- Satan can cause suffering.
- Our own choices and sin can cause suffering.
- The broken world in which we live can cause us to suffer.

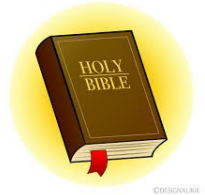


When Adam and Eve sinned and used their freewill to disobey God, they damaged God's perfect paradise. Evil, pain and suffering entered the world. Humans have

been causing problems ever since by their rejection of God and their disobedience to Him.

Thank goodness God loves us and has not abandoned us! As part of His plan to restore the broken world He sent Jesus!

All of us will experience suffering and pain in some form. It is part of our existence on Earth. However, putting our faith in Jesus, repenting of our sin and being obedient to His word will allow the Holy Spirit to walk with us through our suffering. He will help us find meaning and purpose and guide us through it.



James 1:2-4 says:

Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

It seems our troubles in life can make our faith stronger. This is certainly true of Job.

When you are struggling and experiencing suffering, rest assured that God understands. Pray to Him, ask Him for strength, guidance and courage to overcome the troubles you face.



Use these helpful questions and answers when you are struggling. They will give you some support and understanding of your situation.

| Question: | What To Do: |
|---|---|
| Am I suffering a consequence of sin? | Confess your sin, repent. |
| Is Satan attacking me because of my faith? | Ask God for strength. |
| Is my suffering a result of a natural consequence for which I am not responsible? | Recognize we're in a sinful world. Both good and evil suffer, God promises that one day all suffering will end. |
| Am I being trained for some special service? | Realize that your suffering can lead to great ministry opportunities. Ask God and others to help you realize these chances to help others who may suffer in the same way. |