

## You Asked: Questions for God Week 2 – God, How Can You Allow Evil and Suffering? (Part 1)

### I. Understanding the Alternatives What do other belief systems say?

- a. Eastern religions say evil and suffering are merely \_\_\_\_\_ or negative experiences that can be \_\_\_\_\_.
- b. Islam says Allah allows evil and suffering when his \_\_\_\_\_ are broken or to test \_\_\_\_\_ and compassion and to bring \_\_\_\_\_.
- c. Atheists say evil and suffering are \_\_\_\_\_.
- d. Skeptics say evil exists; therefore, God ultimately is not \_\_\_\_\_ nor is he \_\_\_\_\_.

Christianity is the only belief system that accounts for the issue of evil and suffering in a consistent way.

### II. Understanding the Beginning How did evil and suffering enter the world?

- a. God created all things \_\_\_\_\_.

Genesis 1:31  
Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day.

- b. Evil is not a \_\_\_\_\_ but a \_\_\_\_\_.

Genesis 2:16-17  
And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; <sup>17</sup>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."

- When God opened himself up for \_\_\_\_\_, he also opened himself up for \_\_\_\_\_.
- c. \_\_\_\_\_ plays a role.
- It is a logical impossibility to have free will and have no possibility of \_\_\_\_\_.

Genesis 3:1-12  
Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'?" <sup>2</sup>And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; <sup>3</sup>but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.'" <sup>4</sup>Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. <sup>5</sup>For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." <sup>6</sup>So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate. <sup>7</sup>Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings. <sup>8</sup>And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. <sup>9</sup>Then the LORD God called to Adam and said to him, "Where are you?" <sup>10</sup>So he said, "I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself." <sup>11</sup>And He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat?" <sup>12</sup>Then the man said, "The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate."

- Sin's entrance brought \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

- d. \_\_\_\_\_ has affected all of creation.

Romans 8:18-22  
For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. <sup>19</sup>For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God. <sup>20</sup>For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; <sup>21</sup>because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. <sup>22</sup>For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now.

- The problem of evil and suffering is a direct result of God's \_\_\_\_\_ from his creation.

### III. Understanding the Reason Why does God allow evil to remain?

- a. The randomness of evil forces us to live by \_\_\_\_\_, the \_\_\_\_\_ of the kingdom.
- b. When God shuts the door on evil and suffering, the door for \_\_\_\_\_ will also be shut.
- c. God allows evil to exist so that we might see the \_\_\_\_\_ for what it is and seek \_\_\_\_\_ for who he is.