

You Asked: Questions for God
Week 3 – God, How Can You Allow Evil and Suffering? (Part 2)

Week 1 Recap:

1. When God opened himself up for _____, he also opened himself up for _____.
2. Sin's entrance brought _____ from the Creator and _____ for all of creation.
3. When God shuts the door on evil and suffering, the door for _____ will also be shut.
4. God allows evil to exist so that we might see the _____ for what it is and seek _____ for who he is.

God is not the source of suffering; he is the solution to suffering.

Part 1: Perspective on Present Suffering

Romans 5:1-5

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ²through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. ³Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; ⁴perseverance, character; and character, hope. ⁵And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.

1. Suffering is _____ and _____.

Revelation 21:1, 4-5

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. ⁴He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." ⁵He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."

- We must view present suffering through the lens of _____.
2. Suffering is a key ingredient to _____.
 3. God allows suffering because it is _____ and _____.
- Through the "press" of suffering God produces _____, character and _____.
 - Pain and suffering weakens our _____ to this world and strengthens our _____ on God.

Part 2: The Final Answer on Suffering

John 9:1-3

As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. ²His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" ³"Neither this man nor his parents sinned," said Jesus, "but this happened so that the work of God might be displayed in his life.

Is God Good?

Is God powerful?

Why is He allowing this?

Romans 8:28-29

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. ²⁹For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.