

III. POINT OF LIGHT #3:

The day is coming when evil will be **judged** and suffering will **cease**.

“Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war.” Rev. 19:11

“The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.” II Peter 3:9

IV. POINT OF LIGHT #4:

Our suffering on **earth** will pale in comparison to what God has in store for His followers in **Heaven**.

“For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory,” II Corinthians 4:17

“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.” Romans 8:18

“And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.” Revelation 21:4

V. POINT OF LIGHT #5:

We decide during suffering to turn away from God and get **bitter** or turn to God and get **better**.

“These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.” John 16:33

“The LORD is near to those who have a broken heart, ...” Psalm 34:18a

**REMEMBER THE POINTS OF LIGHT
WHEN SUFFERING!**

THE GOD QUESTIONS

Exploring Life’s Great Questions About God

Why Does God Allow Suffering?

Pastor Steve Reynolds

INTRODUCTION

A. We all have questions about God. The God Questions teaching series is designed to give you answers to your deepest questions about God. You will gain a better knowledge of God and a closer connection with Him.

“for as I was passing through and considering the objects of your worship, I even found an altar with this inscription:

TO THE UNKNOWN GOD.

Therefore, the One whom you worship without knowing, Him I proclaim to you: Acts 17:23

B. There are many questions about God, however, there are seven major questions that pretty much everyone asks.

March 3	Is God Real?
March 10	Is The Bible God’s Word?
March 17	What Is God Like?
TODAY	Why Does God Allow Suffering?
March 31	Did God Create The World?
April 7	Why Hasn’t God Answered My Prayers?
April 14	How Can I Know God Personally?

These are tough questions and you will be given a Biblical answer.

TEXT: I Corinthians 13:12 (Pew Bible/Pg 179/New Testament)

WHY DOES GOD ALLOW SUFFERING?

I. POINT OF LIGHT #1:

God is **not** the creator of suffering, but man's **choice** to sin brought suffering into the world.

"Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good..." Genesis 1:31a

"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..." Genesis 3:6

"16 To the woman He said: 'I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; In pain you shall bring forth children; Your desire shall be for your husband, And he shall rule over you.'

17 Then to Adam He said, 'Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat of it': 'Cursed is the ground for your sake; In toil you shall eat of it All the days of your life.

18 Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, And you shall eat the herb of the field.

19 In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread Till you return to the ground, For out of it you were taken; For dust you are, And to dust you shall return." Genesis 3:16-19

Two Kinds Of Suffering:

Moral Suffering – sinful actions which result in suffering.

"...But the way of the unfaithful is hard." Proverbs 13:15b

Natural Suffering – Things that occur in nature which result in suffering.

"For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now." Romans 8:22

II. POINT OF LIGHT #2:

Though suffering is not good, God uses it for **good**.

"And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose." Romans 8:28

A. God uses suffering to **draw** you.

"9 Now I rejoice, not that you were made sorry, but that your sorrow led to repentance. For you were made sorry in a godly manner, ...

10 For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, ..." II Corinthians 7:9a,10a

B. God uses suffering to **test** you.

"2 My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials,

3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience.

4 But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing." James 1:2-4

C. God uses suffering to **discipline** you.

Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it." Hebrews 12:11

D. God uses suffering to **grow** you.

"3 And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance;

4 and perseverance, character; and character, hope." Romans 5:3-4

E. God uses suffering to **save** you.

"For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit," I Peter 3:18