



## Q: if God is all-powerful and loving, why is there so much suffering in the world?

### 1. Why, apart from God, do you think “good” has any meaning?

In those days Israel had no king; all the people did whatever seemed right in their own eyes.  
— Judges 21:25

### 2. We can stipulate that God is \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

Our God is in the heavens, and he does as he wishes. —Psalm 115:3

“With my great strength and powerful arm I made the earth and all its people and every animal. I can give these things of mine to anyone I choose.” —Jeremiah 27:5

He is the Rock; his deeds are perfect. Everything he does is just and fair. He is a faithful God who does no wrong; how just and upright he is!  
— Deuteronomy 32:4

### 3. Sources of suffering include \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

We are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.  
—Ephesians 6:12

Then Satan entered into Judas Iscariot, who was one of the twelve disciples, and he went to the leading priests and captains of the Temple guard to discuss the best way to betray Jesus to them.  
—Luke 22:3

We are constant sinners; how can people like us be saved? We are all infected and impure with sin. When we display our righteous deeds, they are nothing but filthy rags. —Isaiah 64:5-6

The sinful nature wants to do evil, which is just the opposite of what the Spirit wants. ... When you follow the desires of your sinful nature, the results are very clear: sexual immorality, impurity, lustful pleasures, idolatry, sorcery, hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissension, division, envy, drunkenness, wild parties, and other sins like these.  
—Galatians 5:17,19-21

I don't really understand myself, for I want to do what is right, but I don't do it. Instead, I do what I hate.  
—Romans 7:15

“Do you think those Galileans were worse sinners than all the other people from Galilee?” Jesus asked. “Is that why they suffered? Not at all!”  
—Luke 13:2-3

“Rabbi,” his disciples asked him, “why was this man born blind? Was it because of his own sins or his parents’ sins?” “It was not because of his sins or his parents’ sins,” Jesus answered. —John 9:2-3

#### 4. Christians \_\_\_\_\_ God prevents injustice and suffering.

He walked away, about a stone’s throw, and knelt down and prayed, “Father, if you are willing, please take this cup of suffering away from me. Yet I want your will to be done, not mine.” — Luke 22:41-42

“Do you remember what I told you? ‘A slave is not greater than the master.’ Since they persecuted me, naturally they will persecute you.” — John 15:20

“Should we pull out the weeds?” they asked. “‘No,’ he replied, ‘you’ll uproot the wheat if you do.’” —Matt 13:28-29

Even if you suffer for doing what is right, God will reward you for it. So don’t worry or be afraid of their threats. Instead, you must worship Christ as Lord of your life. —1 Peter 3:14-15

#### 5. By God’s grace, we can \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ suffering.

So humble yourselves before God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. — James 4:7

Never pay back evil with more evil. Don’t let evil conquer you, but conquer evil by doing good. —Romans 12:17, 21

Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise. — Philipians 4:8

We are pressed on every side by troubles, but we are not crushed. We are perplexed, but not driven to despair. We are hunted down, but never abandoned by God. We get knocked down, but we are not destroyed. —2 Corinthians 4:8-9

We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation. —Romans 5:3-4

#### 6. God \_\_\_\_\_ in suffering until \_\_\_\_\_.

This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses, for he faced all of the same testings we do, yet he did not sin. —Hebrews 4:15

When you go through deep waters, I will be with you. When you go through rivers of difficulty, you will not drown. When you walk through the fire of oppression, you will not be burned up; the flames will not consume you. —Isaiah 43:2

He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, “Saul! Saul! Why are you persecuting me?” “Who are you, lord?” Saul asked. And the voice replied, “I am Jesus, the one you are persecuting! —Acts 9:4-5

“No, I will not abandon you as orphans—I will come to you. Soon the world will no longer see me, but you will see me. Since I live, you also will live. When I am raised to life again, you will know that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you . — John 14:18-20

“These are the ones who died in the great tribulation. They have washed their robes in the blood of the Lamb and made them white. ... They will never again be hungry or thirsty; they will never be scorched by the heat of the sun. For the Lamb on the throne will be their Shepherd. He will lead them to springs of life-giving water. And God will wipe every tear from their eyes.” — Revelation 7: 14,16-17