

WHY DOES GOD ALLOW SUFFERING AND SICKNESS?

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*Wake up, O Lord! Why do you sleep? Get up!
...Why do you look the other way?
Why do you ignore our suffering and oppression?
(Psalm 44:23-24, NLT)*

False “Christian” Teachings about Sickness

- Jesus’ death and resurrection included full physical healing (Isa 53:5; 1 Pe 2:24).
- If we tap into the power of faith by speaking words of faith and believing strong enough, then we can be healed and heal others (1 John 5:14-15).
- If a believer isn’t fully healed, it’s their fault. Worse yet, they are in sin for not having the “right” faith.

WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT SUFFERING AND SICKNESS

1. GOD IS NOT THE AUTHOR OF SUFFERING AND SICKNESS.

“God saw all that he had made, and it was very good.” (Genesis 1:31a, NIV)

- **SUFFERING & SICKNESS CAME AS A RESULT OF SIN.**
*“For the sin of this one man, Adam, caused death [SUFFERING] to rule over all...”
(Romans 5:17, NLT)*
- **SUFFERING & SICKNESS EFFECTS ALL OF CREATION.**
“For we know that even the things of nature, like animals and plants, suffer in sickness and death as they await this great event.” (Romans 8:22, TLB)

2. SUFFERING & SICKNESS HAVE MANY SOURCES.

*“As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” “Neither this man nor his parents sinned,” said Jesus, “but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him.”
(John 9:1–3, NIV)*

- **NATURAL SOURCES**¹
*“If you refuse to obey all the words of instruction that are written in this book, and if you do not fear the glorious and awesome name of the LORD your God, then the LORD will overwhelm you and your children with indescribable plagues. These plagues will be intense and without relief, making you miserable and unbearably sick. He will afflict you with all the diseases of Egypt that you feared so much, and you will have no relief.”
(Deuteronomy 28:58–60, NLT)*

¹ <https://www.proclaimanddefend.org/2012/05/14/medical-science-and-the-law-of-moses/>

- **SPIRITUAL SOURCES**

- **DEMONIC**

“Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath day. A woman was there who, for eighteen years, had an evil spirit in her that made her crippled. Her back was always bent; she could not stand up straight.” (Luke 13:10–11, NCV)

- **DIRECTED**

“So that I would not become too proud of the wonderful things that were shown to me, a painful physical problem was given to me. This problem was a messenger from Satan, sent to beat me and keep me from being too proud.” (2 Corinthians 12:7, NCV)

3. ALTHOUGH SUFFERING & SICKNESS IS NOT GOOD, GOD CAN USE IT TO BRING ABOUT HIS PURPOSES.

“And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.” (Romans 8:28, NKJV)

FIVE WAYS GOD USES/ALLOWS SUFFERING AND SICKNESS

1) God uses pain to **DIRECT** us.

“Now I am glad I sent it, not because it hurt you but because the pain turned you to God.” (2 Corinthians 7:9a, The Living Bible)

2) God uses pain to **CORRECT** us.

“No discipline is enjoyable while it is happening—it’s painful! But afterward there will be a peaceful harvest of right living for those who are trained in this way.” (Hebrews 12:11, NLT)

3) God uses pain to **PROTECT** us.

“You intended to harm me, but God intended it all for good. He brought me to this position so I could save the lives of many people.” (Genesis 50:20, NLT)

4) God uses pain to **PERFECT** us.

“Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles of any kind come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow.” (James 1:2–3, NLT)

5) God uses pain to **CONNECT** us.

“Is anyone sick? He should call for the elders of the church and they should pray over him and pour a little oil upon him, calling on the Lord to heal him. The prayer of faith will save the sick person and the Lord will raise him up again; and if he has committed any sins, he will be forgiven.” (James 5:14–15, The Living Bible/NJB)

PRAYERS FOR HEALING

4. GOD CAN AND DOES STILL HEAL.

- Sometimes God heals **MIRACULOUSLY** (Acts 14:3)

- Sometimes God heals [MEDICINALLY](#) (1 Tim 5:23)
- One day God will heal [ULTIMATELY](#) (Rev 21)

“Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the old heaven and the old earth had disappeared...I heard a loud shout from the throne, saying, “Look, the home of God is now among his people! ...He will remove all of their sorrows, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain...” Rev 21:1a, 3-4 (NLT)

RESOURCES

The Problem of Pain – C.S. Lewis

Faith & Doubt – John Ortberg

How Could God Allow Suffering and Evil? – Garry Poole