All In with Jordan Easley

Why Would God Allow Evil and Suffering?

Questioning Christianity | Week 2 | John 16:33

INTRODUCTION	NOTES
Unfortunately, I don't think you and I will ever really understand on this side of heaven why bad things happen. In 1 Cor. 13:12, Paul says, "For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I will know fully, as I am fully known." He's talking about our perspective and our perception of the world, and he tells us that today we're trying to see clearly and understand the big picture, but we can't because right now, it's like we're living in a fog. Today is a foggy day, and we can't see anything clearly. But there's coming a day when our questions will be answereda day when we'll be able to clearly see why. But for now, we've got to keep moving forward by faith and learn how to navigate the fog. So in the meantime, there are a few truths that God gives us in His Word that can help us move forward in the fog.	
KEY POINTS	
1. God didn't create evil & suffering, but He does allow it. The Bible tells us that God is love, and we were created by God and for God. But in order for anyone to experience true love, they must have the ability to love. That ability is only possible if someone has free will because, without free will, we wouldn't have the ability to decide to love someone or decide not to love someone. If God created us without free will, we would just be robots programmed to demonstrate a fabricated form of love. True love always involves a choice. That's why God created us the way He did. Unfortunately, we as humans (going all the way back to Adam and Eve in the book of Genesis) have abused our free will by rejecting God and walking away from Him. And that decision resulted in the introduction of evil into the world.	
2. Although suffering isn't good, God can use it to accomplish good. Nowhere in the Bible does it say that God is the author of evil and suffering, but it does say that God's intentions are to create good things out of bad things. In Romans 8:28, Paul says, "We know that all things work together for the good of those who love God, who are called according to his purpose."	

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Notice that God doesn't make this promise to everyone, but He does make it to those of us who love God and to those who are living for God. He tells us that we will experience suffering in this world, but never forget that He specializes in turning tragedies into triumphs. Here's what God's word tells us today: Good things will emerge from bad things if we're committed to following God.	NOTES
3. A day is coming when suffering will cease and evil will be eradicated. In the Bible, God promises that there's a day coming when sickness and pain will be eliminated. Revelation 21:4 says, on that day, "He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; grief, crying, and pain will be no more."	
That day is coming! But do you know what else will happen on that day? People will be held accountable for the evil they've committed. There's coming a day when justice will be served in a perfect way and everyone will be held accountable for the lives they lived on earth.	
Now, you might be wondering, "What's holding God up? Why doesn't Jesus just come back and get it over with?" To answer that question, I believe He's delaying that day for the people who have yet to place their faith in Him. I believe He's delaying the consummation of history in anticipation that some will still choose to trust in Him with their eternity and give their lives to Him. He's delaying everything out of His great love for us.	

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QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1.	Have you struggled to understand why God allows evil and suffering in the world? How so?
2.	When was a time God took something bad in your life and used it for good?
3.	Who is someone you can be praying for this week who still needs to place their faith in Jesus and surrender their life to Him?