



If God, Why Evil?

Week 2 of 4

SMS: (765) JESUS99 • email: questions@lafayettecc.org

SERIES • PRAY • INTRO: SINGLE MOST COMMON QUESTION PEOPLE HAVE

How can an all-good, all-powerful God exist in a world with suffering, pain, and evil? OR Why do bad things happen to good people?

it is the oldest spiritual question

Yet man is born to trouble as surely as sparks fly upward. "But if it were I, I would appeal to God; I would lay my cause before him.

Job 5:7-8

THE PROBLEM OF EVIL

- ▶ With God, we can't **u n d e r s t a n d** evil.
- ▶ Without God, **t h e r e i s n o** evil.

There is no satisfying answer, because the question is a smokescreen!
 SMOKECREEN • NO SATISFYING ANSWER • EVIL WON'T FEEL GOOD • REJECT GOD DOESN'T HELP
 IT'S OFTEN BORN OF ANGER AND REVENGE • JUDGE GOD'S PERFORMANCE • PROSECUTE INJUSTICE

THE BIG QUESTION:

Can I **t r u s t** God?

KNOWING WHAT I KNOW ABOUT THE WORLD, CAN I TRUST GOD?

THE FOUR KINDS OF GOD

- ▶ GOD #1: He is **s t r o n g** enough to stop evil, but not very good.
- ▶ GOD #2: He really wants to stop evil, but he just **c a n ' t**.
- ▶ GOD #3: He is good and strong, but he's **i g n o r a n t**.
- ▶ GOD #4: He is good and strong, but **l ' m i g n o r a n t**.

A GOD GOOD ENOUGH AND STRONG ENOUGH MUST HAVE PERSPECTIVE • UNIVERSE & ETERNITY

"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the LORD. "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Isaiah 55:8-9

KILLER ILLUSTRATION: THE IMMUNE SYSTEM, ALLERGIES, AND CHICKEN POX PARTIES

THE BIG ANSWER:

We should trust God because he is **g o o d , s t r o n g**, and **u n d e r s t a n d i n g**, but totally **b e y o n d** us!

GOOD, STRONG, UNDERSTANDING AND BEYOND

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 work of God might be displayed in his life.... Having said this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man's eyes. "Go," he told him, "wash in the Pool of Siloam" (this word means Sent). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing

John 9:1-3, 6-7

STANDARD ANSWERS: #1 suffering results from sin / #2 suffering brings about good
 BUT EVIL AND SUFFERING MAY JUST BE FOR GOD'S GLORY! / even if healing doesn't come

To keep me from becoming conceited because of these surpassingly great revelations, there was given me a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

2 Corinthians 12:7-10

RUNNER -> TRIATHLON • POLIO -> MARATHON • PALSYP, AMPUTEE, ALS -> 10K
 CAN I TRUST A GOD WHO MAY USE PAIN IN MY LIFE FOR HIS OWN GLORY?

If God exists, then He himself and his glory are the most

i n f i n i t e l y v a l u a b l e g o o d !

GOD HIMSELF IS INFINITELY BEYOND US • AN UNATTAINABLE CELEBRITY!

WHAT SHOULD BE SURPRISING IS NOT THAT AN ALL-GOOD GOD WOULD ALLOW PAIN, BUT THAT AN ALL-SUPREME BEING SHOULD CREATE HUMAN JOY! THAT HE SHOULD DRAW US TO HIMSELF!

"But I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself." He said this to show the kind of death he was going to die.

John 12:32-33

God answers all **e v i l** with his **g o o d** through **J e s u s**.

EVERYTHING ABOUT GOD IS BEYOND US! / HE CREATED / HE GAVE BREATH / GAVE FREEDOM / JOY!
 THAT HE WOULD DEIGN TO COME TO EARTH...

I DON'T FEEL ANY BETTER ABOUT PAIN AND SUFFERING, BUT I KNOW THAT WITHOUT JEALOUSY, ANGER, SUFFERING, AND DEATH, THERE WOULD BE NO CROSS -> NO FORGIVENESS -> NO FUTURE, AND I WOULD MISS OUT ON THE MOST INFINITELY VALUABLE GOOD

THROUGH JESUS, GOD PROVES HIMSELF GOOD, STRONG, AND CARING • THAT'S WHY WE TRUST HIM

An infinitely wonderful God draws me to himself by a tragic cross. How can I not trust him?

GOD UNDERSTANDS • LOGAN'S PHONE CALL