



GOD, IF YOU ARE
GOOD, WHY IS
THERE SO MUCH
SUFFERING?

Wake up, O Lord!...*Why do you ignore our suffering and oppression?*" (Psalm 44:23,24)

If God is not there

Then suffering is meaningless

If God is not strong enough

Then suffering is hopeless

If God is not good enough

Then suffering is endless

_____ God is good even when life is bad

1. "God, if you're good why don't you stop bad things?"

If I'm not good, where does goodness come from?

"Whatever is good and perfect comes down to us from God" (James 1:17)

I made a good world. Bad choices unmade it

"everything God created is good" (1 Tim 4:4)

"Since they thought it foolish to acknowledge God, he abandoned them... and let them do things that should never be done." (Romans 1:28)

"with eager hope, the creation looks forward to the day when it will join God's children in glorious freedom from death and decay." (Romans 8:21-22)

2. "God, if you're powerful why don't you end suffering?"

Because using my power overrides your freedom

"Choose to love the LORD your God... and commit yourself to him" (Deuteronomy 30:20)

If I use power, where should my intervention stop?

To eliminate suffering I'd have to eliminate you

"The Lord isn't really being slow...No, he is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to perish, so he is giving more time for everyone to repent." (2 Peter 3:9)

3. "God, but why don't you do something?"

I suffered for you

"(Jesus) suffered death for us" (Heb. 2:9)

I will bring you safely through your suffering

"Do not be afraid, for I have ransomed you. I have called you by name; you are mine. When you go through deep waters and great trouble, I will be with you. When you go through rivers of difficulty, you will not drown!... you are precious to me. You are honored, and I love you." (Isaiah 43:1-3)

I will use your suffering for good

"And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them." (Romans 8:28)

I will end suffering and renew all things

"Christ won't let up until the last enemy is down- and the last enemy is death!" (1 Cor. 15:26 MSG)

"I saw a new heaven and a new earth... 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. For the old world and its evils are gone forever." (Rev. 21:1-5)

4. "But God, there is so much I don't understand."

You don't need to understand. You just need me

*"my suffering...is bitter beyond words. I will never forget this awful time, as I grieve over my loss. Yet I still dare to hope when I remember this: The **unfailing love of the Lord never ends!**...Great is his faithfulness; **his mercies begin afresh each day.** I say to myself, "The Lord is my inheritance; therefore, **I will hope in him!**" (Lam. 3:19-24)*