

The God Questions:

How can a good God allow suffering?

Wylie United Methodist Church
Pastor Jeff Hatcher – April 28, 2013

Matt 11:28-30

28 "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

God allows suffering because...

1. WE LIVE IN A BROKEN WORLD

Gen 1:31

God saw all that he had made, and it was very good.

Gen 3:14 (to Adam & Eve following sin)

"Cursed are you"

Gen 3:17

"Cursed is the ground because of you."

God is Sovereign (has Supreme Power),
but Free Will (Sin) has Consequences.

Because of Man's Sin (his Rebellion to God),
the whole world is under God's Curse.

God allows suffering because...

2. IT DRAWS YOU TO HIM

Heb 5:8

[Jesus] learned obedience from what he suffered.

Many times, God accomplishes growth through brokenness!

James 1:2-4

2 Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, 3 because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. 4 Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

God allows suffering because...

3. HE HAS A PLAN AND A PURPOSE FOR YOUR LIFE

Rom 8:28

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

You and I decide whether our suffering is going to harden us or mature us.

CONCLUSION:

God understands suffering.

Luke 22:15

[Jesus] said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer."

Matt 11:28

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."