

# Why is there so much suffering in the world and why doesn't God do something about it?



The short answer is that the story of the Bible clearly demonstrates the reasons for suffering in this world and reveals God's plan to save us from suffering, evil and death.

## Why is there so much suffering in the world?

We must understand that God commands us to love Him with 'all' our heart, with 'all' our soul, and with 'all' our mind; and to love our neighbour as ourselves. God created us to love each other, love this planet and love all living things. This is the will of God for our lives.

Our consistent failure to live up to God's design and purpose for our lives is the primary reason why there is so much suffering in the world.

Our failure to truly love each other and take care of this planet and all living things is the root cause of all the suffering in the world. Unless every, single human being genuinely and wholeheartedly loves God and neighbour; suffering will always prevail in this world – and this failure is demonstrated in the dark reality of human history and the suffering and brokenness in our own lives.

Not one of us can claim with a clear conscience that we have perfectly loved God and loved our neighbour as ourselves, and therefore we are all guilty of contributing to the suffering in this world. Many of us do not actively engage in wrong doing and evil but we all fail to do the good we know we should do.

## Why doesn't God do something about it?

The answer is that God has done something and is continuing to do something about the suffering and evil we have created, and ultimately, He will bring all of us to give an account of how we used the gift of life He gave us and how we treated each other and if we honoured God or not.

God has made a promise to save all who trust Him from the suffering and evil of this world and He has communicated this promise through the good news of Jesus in the Bible. God has NOT promised that He will save us from all the pain and suffering in this life but His promise is to save the souls of all who trust Him, to inherit all the blessings of God in heaven and save us from ending up in the eternal punishment of hell.

God has promised that He will carry all who trust Him through the trials and suffering in this life and will give us the hope, joy and comfort that comes from having a genuine and wholehearted trust in Jesus. God has promised to adopt all who trust Him as His very own children and be our loving heavenly Father. He has promised to never leave or forsake all who trust Him but to eradicate the selfishness and sin which causes our suffering, and He will transform the heart of all who trust Him to become more like the heart of Jesus in love, wisdom and grace.

God demonstrates His own love toward us, by the fact that while we were in a state of sin and disobedience towards Him, He sent Jesus to die in our place, so that all the punishment of our sin and failures would fall on Jesus and not on us. By this act, all who trust in Jesus are made acceptable and reconciled to God.

The good news is that all who genuinely and wholeheartedly trust in Jesus will inherit the promises of God and will see God's plan to rescue us from our own sinful and destructive ways through the love of Jesus.

Our enemy is not God but sin and death; and it is the Devil, who through his lies and temptations, causes us to distrust God and disobey Him which in turn leads to evil and a failure to do good. But God in His love and grace has made atonement for our sins through the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross and He has conquered death through the resurrection of Jesus from the dead.

Through faith in Jesus we have a way to become acceptable to God through trusting in His precious and magnificent promises and we can share in the victory which Jesus has won for us by being united to Him through genuine and wholehearted trust in Him.

*John 3:16-17*

*“For God so loved the world, that He gave His One and Only Son, that whoever trusts in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. For God did not send Jesus into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.”*

### **What does it mean to believe in Jesus and be saved?**

To believe or to have faith in Jesus, means to ‘trust’ that Jesus loves us deeply and cares for us and knows what is best for our lives. It means to trust in what Jesus says in the Bible as the one and only truth that we can count on about life and death, and life after death. Because Jesus is the only One who came from heaven and has risen from death, He is the only one who has the authority to speak about God.

It means to turn away from following the lies of the Devil and the world that deceive us regarding what is right and wrong, and to turn away from following our own sinful desires. It means to seek a genuine relationship with Jesus by calling on Him through prayer and listening to Him by reading the Bible.

We are saved by God’s grace and mercy through genuine and wholehearted trust in Jesus; and our faith does not originate in ourselves, but it is the gift of God. Not as a result of our behaviour or efforts, so that no one may boast; but we are a work of God, created through our union of faith with Jesus Christ to do good works, which God prepared beforehand for us to live by.

*2 Peter 3:9*

*“The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some think, but is patient toward you, not wishing for anyone to perish but for all to come to repentance.”*

*Psalms 145:8-9*

*“The LORD is gracious and merciful; slow to anger and abounding in lovingkindness and truth. The LORD is good to all, and His mercies are over all His creation.”*

*Ezekiel 18:30-32*

*“Repent and turn away from all your sins, so that your sin may not become a stumbling block to you. Cast away from you all your sins which you have committed and make yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! For why will you die, O house of Israel? “For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone who dies,” declares the Lord GOD. “Therefore, repent and live.”*

To repent means to turn away from following our own sinful desires and to follow Jesus by listening to Him and building a personal relationship with Him through trust and obedience.

*Matthew 11:28-30*

*“Come to Me, all who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. 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. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.”*

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Or email us at [MercyGraceGospel@gmail.com](mailto:MercyGraceGospel@gmail.com)

*Eternity*