

The Reason For God: What about suffering?

"Why doesn't God just eradicate suffering all together? If he were to eradicate suffering, He'd have to eradicate sin in which suffering has its roots. And if He were to eradicate sin, He'd have to eradicate sinners."

Joni Erickson Tada

Ro. 5.12 (NIV)...sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned—

Ro. 8.18-21(TLB)Yet what we suffer now is nothing compared to the glory he will give us later. For all creation is waiting patiently and hopefully for that future day when God will resurrect his children. For on that day thorns and thistles, sin, death, and decay—the things that overcame the world against its will at God's command—will all disappear, and the world around us will share in the glorious freedom from sin which God's children enjoy.

1. It's through pain and suffering we connect with God

Job. 36.15 (NIV)But those who suffer he delivers in their suffering; he speaks to them in their affliction.

Isa. 53.5(NIV)But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed.

Phil. 3.10(NIV) I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death,

2. God will use our pain to help others

2 Cor. 1.3-4 (NIV)Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, **4** who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God.

Phil. 4.14(NIV) it was good of you to share in my troubles.

3. God has provide a way out of all this someday

Ro. 8.35-39(NIV)Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? **36** As it is written: "For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered." **37** No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. **38** For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, **39** neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

2 Cor. 4.18 (NIV) we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. **17** For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. **18** So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.