

Does God ~~not~~ Exist?

Reasons for Suffering & the Emotional Problem

Video: "Would a Loving God allow evil and Suffering?" (Peter Kreeft)



“There may be suffering in this life that has no earthly purpose whatsoever, but God permits it simply that he might over-abundantly compensate... with reward of incomprehensible proportions.”
(William Lane Craig)

“As organs in the body of Christ, as stones and pillars in the temple, we are assured of our eternal self-identity and shall live to remember the galaxies as an old tale.” (C.S. Lewis)

<u>Failed Theodicies</u>	<u>Good Theodicies and remedies</u>
God isn't all knowing	Free will (explains evil)
God isn't all powerful	Cross gives context to suffering (emotional problem)
God isn't all good	Love & proper human connection/contact (emotional problem)
Soul/character-making	Reminding ourselves of God's goodness (for Christians)
World-building	Hope, e.g. evil brings about good (emotional problem)
Evil doesn't exist	Experience of God, e.g. Job (emotional problem)
It's a mystery!	Dealing with emotional doubt (emotional problem) → Meditating on God's goodness, prayer, community, etc.

Meditating on God's Goodness

All that God is and does is good.

"You are good, and what you do is good; teach me your decrees" ([Psalm 119:68](#)).

God's goodness and love last forever.

"Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever" ([Psalm 107:1](#)).

God is good to everyone.

"The LORD is good to all; he has compassion on all he has made" ([Psalm 145:9](#)).

Everything God made was good.

"God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day" ([Genesis 1:31](#)).

God has goodness stored up for us.

"How abundant are the good things that you have stored up for those who fear you, that you bestow in the sight of all, on those who take refuge in you" ([Psalm 31:19](#)).

Everything from God is good.

"For everything God created is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving" ([1 Timothy 4:4](#)).

All things that are good are from God.

"Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows" ([James 1:17](#)).

God alone is Good

"Just then a man came up to Jesus and asked, 'Teacher, what good thing must I do to get eternal life?' 'Why do you ask me about what is good?' Jesus replied. 'There is only One who is good. If you want to enter life, keep the commandments'" ([Matthew 19:16-17](#)).

"For the LORD God is a sun and shield; the LORD bestows favor and honor; no good thing does he withhold from those whose walk is blameless" ([Psalm 84:11](#)).

God's Goodness Impacts Us

We are blessed through God's goodness.

"Taste and see that the LORD is good; blessed is the man who takes refuge in him" ([Psalm 34:8](#)).

Goodness can come from all circumstances.

"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" ([Romans 8:28](#)).

His goodness leads to repentance.

"His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness" ([2 Peter 1:3](#)).

"Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance?" ([Romans 2:4](#), NKJV)

God's goodness is our shelter

"Taste and see that the LORD is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in him" ([Psalm 34:8](#)).