

# Why Does God Allow Suffering?

## 1 Peter 4:12-19

At some point, you've probably been asked why a loving God would allow suffering in the world. Though He is able to stop it, He often doesn't. And while we can acknowledge seeing Him at work during certain difficult situations, at other times it looks as if nothing is happening despite our many prayers.

We live in a sinful world, so the potential for anguish is great. Sometimes we're troubled when people are driven by the evil within. Other times the cause is our own weakness or God's discipline in our life. Still another reason might be persecution or simply the consequence of ignoring good principles. But whatever the origin of our distress, we can be sure that if God allows it, He has a purpose. He may want ...

**To get our attention.** The psalmist realized affliction brought him back within God's will ([Psalm 119:67](#); [Psalm 119:71](#)). In times of distress, we often turn to Him for help.

**To develop personal righteousness in us.** God wants us to mature, so He will reveal areas of our life that we need to address.

**To prune us.** [John 15:1-2](#) paints an excellent word picture of how God eliminates attitudes and actions that are not godly or fruit-bearing.

**To teach us obedience.** Jesus, who always did the Father's will, is our perfect example ([John 4:34](#); [Heb. 5:7-9](#)). As we are conformed to His image, we will increasingly learn to obey God ([Rom. 8:29](#)).

Over the next two days, we'll look at other reasons God may allow painful seasons in our life. Until then, ask Him to show you how He may be using suffering for your good.