

Does suffering suggest God doesn't care?

When we go through some painful experience, or when we look at all the suffering in the world, we're left with massive questions: If God is loving, why does he allow this? Is he unable to stop it? Is he cruel? Does he even exist?

Philosophers and theologians have wrestled with this complex issue for centuries. There's too much to cover in a short leaflet. But the Bible shines light into our darkness.

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

(Jesus: Matthew 11 v28)

Jesus cared for those in need

The Bible consistently reveals an all-powerful God who cares for those he has made, even liberating a whole nation from slavery.

Supremely, Jesus Christ shows us what God is really like, as 'the exact representation of his being'¹. Did Jesus care about people? Absolutely! He fed the hungry, calmed the anxious, comforted the grieving, and ended the suffering of every sick person who came to him, as he healed them!

1. Hebrews 1:3

2. 'The problem of pain', CS Lewis

3. John 10:10

4. Revelation 21:4

God cares too much to remove all suffering

Not all pain is bad. A headache might reveal a brain tumour that needs to be removed before it kills us. God may sometimes let people suffer to highlight a greater problem that needs to be cured.

We tend to ignore our Maker and go our own way. He warns that this will bring us unceasing suffering after death, in hell. But we're inclined not to listen. The Christian author, C.S. Lewis, says suffering is God's megaphone to get our attention². He calls us to be saved from far worse suffering!

God promises life without suffering

We can't fathom all the ways of the Infinite Creator. But Jesus reassures us, by personal example, that God is good and can be trusted.

God invites us into a life under his constant loving care. He promises unending "life to the full"³ after death, in heaven, with "no more death or mourning or crying or pain"⁴.

But to get there, and escape all suffering, we must plead to God for forgiveness, and turn from going our own way. Jesus died and rose to bring us forgiveness; we need to put our trust in him and follow him.

Come to Jesus to receive God's care!