



“God either wishes to take away evils and is unable; or he is able and unwilling; or he is neither willing nor able; or he is both willing and able. If he is willing and unable, he is feeble, which does not agree with the character of God. If he is able and unwilling, he is malicious, which is equally at odds with God. If he is neither willing nor able, he is both malicious and feeble and therefore not God. If he is both willing and able, which is alone suitable to God, from what source then come evils and why does he not remove them?”

Stated by Epicurus

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“If suffering is a problem that arises most keenly within Christianity, is there a Christian solution? I believe that there is, and that the depth of the problem and the solution are essentially related.”

by: Dinesh D'Souza
God Forsaken

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Common Explanations Given for Evil and Suffering

1. There is no evil or suffering
2. There is no God
3. God has limited goodness

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Common Explanations Given for Evil and Suffering

4. God has limited power – Human free will is equal
5. God has limited knowledge
6. God is all good, all powerful, all knowing, and He hates evil.

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Doesn't Evil & Suffering Expose God's Limitations?

1. Is God's Power limited?

"I can worship a God who hates suffering but cannot eliminate it, more easily than I can worship a God who chooses to make children suffer and die, for whatever exalted reason."

Rabbi Harold Kushner

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Luke 1:37

"For nothing will be impossible with God."

Matthew 19:26

"But Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

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Ephesians 3:20

“Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us.”

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2. Is God's knowledge limited?

Job 37:16

“Do you know the balancings of the clouds, the wondrous works of him who is perfect in knowledge,”

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Psalm 139:1,4

“O Lord, you have searched me and known me! Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O Lord, you know it altogether.”

Isaiah 46:10

“declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, ‘My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose,’”

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3. Is God’s goodness limited?

4. Is God’s love limited?

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“God whispers in our pleasures, speaks in our conscience, but shouts in our pain. It is His Megaphone to rouse a deaf world.”

by: C.S. Lewis

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“I venture to say that the greatest earthly blessing that God can give to any of us is health, with the possible exception of sickness.”

by: Charles Spurgeon

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The “Modern” Way to Respond or Frame Suffering

1. God is omnipotent, so He has the power to eliminate gratuitous evil and suffering.
2. God is benevolent and good, so He has the desire to eliminate gratuitous evil and suffering.

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The “Modern” Way to Respond or Frame Suffering

3. The world contains innumerable cases of gratuitous evil and suffering.
4. Therefore an omnipotent, good God does not exist.

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2 Great Paradox's in Life

1. The Dependence / Independence of Humanity

God's Will

Man's Free Will

We are Created

We are Persons

2. God Loves Humanity / God Cursed Humanity

Creation

Fall

Redemption

(God reclaims humanity)

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Christian Misunderstanding of Pain and Suffering

1. Disease, pain and suffering flow from the Curse God pronounced against humanity after Adam and Eve's sin in the Garden of Eden. **True**

2. Jesus came to reverse this Curse.

Partially True

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Christian Misunderstanding of Pain and Suffering

3. Therefore, Christians shouldn't have to live with disease, pain, suffering, etc.

Not True

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