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evil/pain/suffering

*Why is there evil & suffering & death?* Fair question!

(OK, here I gotta first remind you, especially on this sensitive subject, that this is just one of the matches in our tiny matchbook. There are **great** treatments of evil and suffering and death in the resources listed in the back. Now back to our regularly scheduled program.)

God loves. Love allows free will. Free will demands the possibility of choosing wrong. That allows the possibility of evil & pain & suffering. But there's a way in which evil can be used to bring about good! I'm serious!

God can and does use even man's badness to bring us to Him. God can and does work within war, famine, terrorism, genocide, murder, cancer, imprisonment, and all other kinds of evil & suffering to...

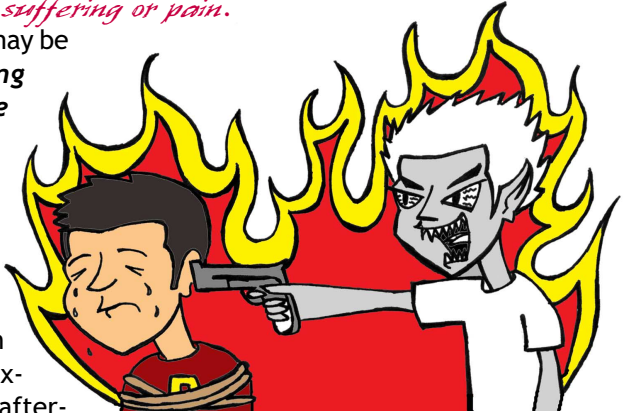
1) *give us REAL & CHALLENGING opportunities to "love others as we love ourselves"* and 2) *to bring individuals via evil circumstances to the far more important REALIZATION OF HIM.*

You yourself have probably heard stories of people who came to a saving knowledge of God by experiencing cancer, or by being imprisoned and tortured, or by going through the trauma of battle, or by experiencing the horror of terrorism. Sit down, this may sound weird:

*God can actually demonstrate His severe love and concern for a fallen, self-centered human by allowing that person to experience evil or suffering or pain.*

Because that may be **the only thing that will wake**

**that person up** and save that one from an eternity of separation from Him (i.e. Hell). And He sees this temporary (it is temporary!) suffering as considerably less painful than the suffering they will experience in the hell of an after-life they choose if they don't do an about-face now.



**AS TO DEATH:** God might *shorten lives* ("before their time" whatever that really means) to keep people from falling away or to minimize their torment in hell, or *keep them living longer* to give more chances to repent or increase a believer's rewards, among other things. (No, this doesn't explain everything! Read the books!)

As cliché as it sounds (and Apologetics Guy doesn't like clichés, lemme tell you!) *God really is in control and can use evil, suffering, and death to demonstrate His intense and severe love.*

*And the evil will end very soon.* Keep in mind also that this is a sensitive subject for many. Don't treat it lightly! Just like the issue of... turn page