

Why does God permit sin and suffering?

One law of physics states that for every action there is an equal and opposite reaction. You can call it Karma or you can call it the law of sowing and reaping. Our life in the flesh is a learning experience. Some things can't be learned by the acquisition of second-hand knowledge. For example, we know that if we touch a hot stove we will be burned and it will be painful, but we have not really learned this until we actually touch the stove and are burnt by it. It's one thing to know about love. It is quite another to actually experience it. We cannot truly experience love until we find ourselves in need of it. True Agape, self-sacrificing, love can only be experienced in the midst of some kind of suffering or need. Just existing in a purely spiritual state in perfect communion with God in the heavenlies cannot teach us these lessons. So God, in His infinite wisdom, has placed us in this crucible of our earthly existence, so that we can learn first-hand, through actual human interactions, just how much pain sinful actions and attitudes cause to ourselves and others. We also learn and experience first-hand God's love and forgiveness, and the joy that results from loving and helping others. These feelings of love and joy are intensified when we finally emerge on the other side and are able to contrast where we have arrived with where we have been. Someone once asked the marathon runner why he endures so much pain to finish the 26-mile course. His response, "because it feels so good when I stop." Romans 11:32: *"For God has bound everyone over to disobedience so that he may have mercy on them all."*