

Common Beliefs about Suffering

Reflect on the statements below. Think about how strongly you agree or disagree with each one. Place a check in front of the statement with which you **most strongly agree**. Place an X in front of the statement with which you **most strongly disagree**.

1. ____ Suffering is necessary for personal growth.
2. ____ God wants us to suffer so we will learn how to be strong and resilient.
3. ____ God causes human suffering.
4. ____ God *allows* human suffering but does not directly cause it.
5. ____ God caused the suffering and death of Jesus.
6. ____ Jesus had to suffer and die in order to free us from sin.
7. ____ Suffering always has a purpose.
8. ____ Jesus is always with us when we suffer.
9. ____ Because Jesus was God, he didn't experience suffering in the way we do.
10. ____ Christians have an obligation to assist those who are suffering.
11. ____ Suffering brings us closer to God.
12. ____ Some, but not all, suffering is caused by human sinfulness.

