Why Does God Allow Suffering?

The Problem of suffering:
If God is good & loving, He will eliminate suffering.
If God is all-powerful, He can eliminate suffering.
Suffering is not eliminated.
Therefore, there is no good & loving, all-powerful God.

1. Is God Loving?
Psalm 103:8- The LORD is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love.
Psalm 107:1- Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever.
1 John 4:8- Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.

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2. Is God All-Powerful?
Psalm 103:19- The LORD has established his throne in heaven, and his kingdom rules over all.
Psalm 115:3- Our God is in heaven; he does whatever pleases him.
Job 42:1-2- Then Job replied to the LORD: "I know that you can do all things; no purpose of yours can be thwarted."
Isaiah 46:9-10- Remember the former things, those of long ago; I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me. I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say, ‘My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please.’

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1) God in His wisdom has a PLAN- Trust!
Jeremiah 29:11- For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

Proverbs 16:33- The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the LORD.

Romans 8:28- And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.
2) God in His patience has a PURPOSE- Believe!
John 3:16- For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

2 Peter 3:9- The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

3) God for His glory PROVIDES- Boast!
2 Corinthians 12:7-10- Therefore, in order to keep me from becoming conceited, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

4) God in His love PUNISHES- Submit!
Hebrews 12:5-6, 9-11- “My son, do not make light of the Lord’s discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you, because the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and he chastens everyone he accepts as his son.” Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of spirits and live! They disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, in order that we may share in his holiness. No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.

5) God in His faithfulness PROMISES- Hope!
Revelation 21:3-5- And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.” He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!” Then he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.”

Romans 8:18- I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.