

# Where is God During This Pandemic? Sunday AM 04/26/20

## Introduction:

The above question is often asked during times of individual and even national trials. The mother who's child dies of a brain tumor or some rare disease, the wife who's husband is killed in a car accident, the child who's mom won't come home because of a gun man at the store, etc. There are various times people want to know where is God and why didn't he do something?

### I) The Facts We Face

#### A) The pandemic

1. Millions of people have been exposed.
2. Thousands upon thousands have died from this virus.
3. There is economic, social, and even religious hardship caused by this virus.

#### B) The implication

1. If God exists, He would not of allowed this to happen. If He allowed this to happen then I don't want to serve Him.
2. Let us be careful of false challenges to God, or as some would say, "holding God hostage" to what we want.
  - a. If God would do this for me, then I will believe in Him.
  - b. If God allows this to happen then I won't believe.

- c. Example of college professor holding piece of chalk and challenging God to stop it from falling.

**C) The fact is God's mere existence does not depend on whether we believe in Him or not.**

1. Pharaoh not believing the true God did not make God disappear. **Exodus 5.2.**
2. Throughout the Bible we read of human suffering.
  - a. Big picture the suffering is due to sin in the Garden of Eden.
  - b. Little picture – sometimes we suffer due to our own sin, sometimes due to others sins, and sometimes due to the fact that man is a moral being.

**II) Where is God?**

**A) In your life?**

1. A lot of people are like the people of Judah during the days of Jeremiah.
  - a. Disobedient, rebellious, idolatrous, immoral, etc.
  - b. Yet they believed in God.

***Jeremiah 2:26 "As the thief is ashamed when he is found out, So is the house of Israel ashamed; They and their kings and their princes, and their priests and their prophets, 27 Saying to a tree, 'You are my father,' And to***

***a stone, 'You gave birth to me.' For they have turned their back to Me, and not their face. But in the time of their trouble They will say, 'Arise and save us.'***

2. God is not a spare tire we can get out of the trunk when we have a flat and then just put back in the trunk when everything is ok.

***Jeremiah 2:32 Can a virgin forget her ornaments, Or a bride her attire? Yet My people have forgotten Me days without number.***

3. Where is God in your life when things are going well?
  - a. Do you think to praise Him?

***Psalms 30:11 You have turned for me my mourning into dancing; You have put off my sackcloth and clothed me with gladness, 12 To the end that my glory may sing praise to You and not be silent. O LORD my God, I will give thanks to You forever.***

- b. Where is God when you make your decisions? Do you consult His word or do you make your decisions and then hope God is pleased? God gave the children of Israel the urim and thumin to reveal His will to them. In Joshua they made a mistake by not consulting God first.

***Joshua 9:14 Then the men of Israel took some of their provisions; but they did not ask***

*counsel of the LORD. 15 So Joshua made peace with them, and made a covenant with them to let them live; and the rulers of the congregation swore to them.*

4. Do you believe in God and in His power?

**James 1:5** *If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. 6 But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. 7 For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord;*

5. Mayor Andrew Cuomo “God did not do this, we did this” in speaking of the declining numbers in the pandemic.
6. Are you seeking God and His righteousness?

**Matthew 6:33** *"But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.*

### III) Where is God?

#### A) God is in heaven.

1. God is there everyday and every night. He gives us good season, rain, and sunshine.

**Acts 14:17** *"Nevertheless He did not leave Himself without witness, in that He did good, gave us rain from heaven and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts*

*with food and gladness."*

***Psalms 103:19*** *The LORD has established His throne in heaven, And His kingdom rules over all.*

2. Someone said, the atheist who makes fun of the Christian worshipping a God he cannot see has no trouble in believing in an invisible virus.

**B) God is near us.**

***James 4:8*** *Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.*

1. If you can't find God then you need to see where you are at. God is not in the beer joint, or brothel, or with sinners.
2. God knows those who are His, ***2 Timothy 2.19.***

**C) Big picture view of suffering**

1. ***Job 2:10*** *But he said to her, "You speak as one of the foolish women speaks. Shall we indeed accept good from God, and shall we not accept adversity?" In all this Job did not sin with his lips.*
2. The suffering of Job was short lived in comparison to his time of blessings.

***Job 42:16*** *After this Job lived one hundred and forty years, and saw his children and grandchildren for four generations. 17 So Job died, old and full of days.*

3. We die and go to heaven there we are better off.

***Revelation 21:4*** "And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away."

#### IV) Where Are You?

##### A) In times of trials people tend to do one of 3 things.

1. Some run toward God.

***Matthew 11:28-30*** "Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. "Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. "For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."

- a. That is a big comfort if you are starving, sick, oppressed, etc.
- b. The Bible speaks of the chastening of the Lord and its benefits.

2. Some run away from God. They turn their back on Him.
3. Some stay where they are at. Which can be either good or bad.

##### B) Lesson from Paul

***2 Corinthians 12:7*** And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in

*the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure. 8 Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. 9 And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. 10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.*

1. **Verse 8**, Lord take it away. Remove my burdens, my trials, and make my way easy.
2. **Verse 9** No Paul, you have to play it where it lies. There are times in our life we simply have to deal with our trials and burdens.
3. **Verse 10** I will do the best I can to glorify God. Only when I face forward and meet adversity head on will God get the glory, for when I am weak then I am strong.

### **Conclusion:**

There will be trials in life and we may get discouraged but we have to trust in God and see the big picture. **1 Peter 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, 5 who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. 6 In this you**

***greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials,***