

Faith Series: Where was God?

(Mark 11:24 NKJV) “Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.”

(Matthew 7:7-8 NKJV) “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. {8} For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.”

(Psalms 37:4 NKJV) “Delight yourself also in the LORD, And He shall give you the desires of your heart.”

The Christian life has many benefits and promises. It also has its costs and disappointments. The Bible talks about our abilities to ask for what is in our hearts, but does not always give us the understanding we need on those occasions when we do not receive what we asked for.



How do we reconcile the Scriptures when it comes to our disappointments, our unanswered prayers?

There are only two ways to respond when it appears the Lord has ignored or denied our prayers. Our first choice is to turn away from God. The second is to turn to God. The way we turn is always our choice. The choices we make will determine the walk we take.

(Proverbs 4:18 NKJV) “But the path of the just is like the shining sun, That shines ever brighter unto the perfect day.”

Principle

The choices we make will determine the walk we take.

You may have questions nobody seems able to answer. Have you ever asked yourself these questions?



“Where was God and why did He let me go through all that I went through? Why didn’t He move in the midst of my situation?”

Why has He not given me the one thing I want more than anything in the world?

The following questions could be asked concerning what the Bible says, right from the very beginnings of the history of mankind.



In Genesis 3:6, where was God? Why did He let Adam and Eve eat of the forbidden fruit? Why did He not prevent the sin from happening?

There are many Biblical illustrations of people who were subject to injustice and lasting hurt, or were put in unfair situations that were beyond their control.



In Genesis 34:2, where was God? Why did He allow Dinah to be taken and raped? Why did He not prevent her from being hurt?

In Genesis 37:23-28, where was God? Why did He allow Joseph to be sold into slavery? Why did He not prevent such an injustice?



In Genesis 39:7-8, where was God when Joseph resisted Potiphar's wife, tried to do what was right, and was rewarded by being sent back to prison? Why did God allow that to happen?

We cannot fully comprehend the ways of God. However, we do understand that by His very nature, God is in the midst of everything that ever happens to anyone. The Bible says He is always there. One of His names is "Emmanuel, God with us."

(Matthew 1:23 NKJV) "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name 'Immanuel,' which is translated, 'God with us.'"

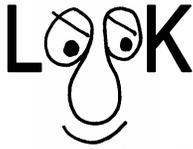
(Romans 8:38, 39 NKJV) "For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Nothing can ever separate you from God and His love! If it is true,

Where is God when I cry out to Him for the one thing I need and hear nothing?

Have you wondered why this, and other questions have not been answered?

God often chooses to be silent about these kinds of questions. Perhaps His silence needs to be taken as a message that we are to rethink the question. Perhaps we need to focus on present solutions rather than the past problems and experiences... and all that has resulted from them. Consider the following:



**HAVE YOU BEEN ASKING
THE WRONG QUESTIONS?**

The meaningful, life-changing question is not, "Where was God" when it happened or did not happen? or... "Why, God?" Ask yourself this question instead:

**The Right Question
100% of the Time**



Who is God?

When you refocus away from your present desires or past experiences, which are pain-filled and disappointing, and turn your energies to seeking God, you are led to the following questions.

Who is this awesome God who is calling me into deep places in Him? How much of Him can I get to know?



How can I walk a path that brings me to a place of knowing Him more intimately day by day - every day?

How can I understand what a deeper relationship with God will mean to me, and apply that meaning to my life?

How will the answers to these questions help build my faith?

Every question you have asked that seems ignored by God needs to be replaced by just one question. For it is in the answer to this question that all other questions may be satisfied.

Let's ask it again! → WHO IS GOD?

Answer: He is the God of all truth!

His Word is fully reliable and backed by His divine nature. He cannot lie! Listen to what He has said,

(2 Corinthians 1:20 NKJV) "For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us."

(Hebrews 10:23 NKJV) "Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful."

(1 Peter 5:6-7 NKJV) "Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, {7} casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you."

(John 14:6a NKJV) "Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."

Let's take a walk together.

Imagine walking together with others on a broad, cool, shaded path. All around you is barren land, full of sand, snake pits, and everything else in the world that can bog you down and try to bury you. All around you are pits and places of sorrow and disappointment. But you are on solid ground! It is a good road to walk and you are heading straight for the throne of Almighty God. Can you visualize that?



Are you wondering how you can walk this way, avoiding all the sorrow, disappointment and trouble you seem to have walked in for far too long? Have you believed that you cannot avoid these pitfalls and the loneliness of a walk through the present deserts of your life? God promises that you will not just avoid the pitfalls, but you can walk right up to the very throne of God, and you do not even have to knock . . . just walk right in.

(Hebrews 4:14-16 NKJV) "Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. {15} For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. {16} Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need."



Who is God? Is He big enough? Can you trust Him completely? Is His grace able to sustain you and keep you in His Covenant fellowship, protection and love?

How big...?

How powerful...?

How capable is God?

*"His name is Wonderful, Counselor,
Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."
(Isaiah 9:6 NKJV)*

(Isaiah 40:10-14 NKJV) "Behold, the Lord GOD shall come with a strong hand, And His arm shall rule for Him; Behold, His reward is with Him, And His work before Him. He will feed His flock like a

shepherd; He will gather the lambs with His arm, And carry them in His bosom, And gently lead those who are with young. Who has measured the waters in the hollow of His hand, Measured heaven with a span And calculated the dust of the earth in a measure? Weighed the mountains in scales And the hills in a balance? Who has directed the Spirit of the LORD, Or as His counselor has taught Him? With whom did He take counsel, and who instructed Him, And taught Him in the path of justice? Who taught Him knowledge, And showed Him the way of understanding”



Cup your hands together as if to hold something. As you can see, you cannot get more than a small cupful of water in both of your hands. Isaiah says that God “*measured the water in the hollow of His hand.*”

Isaiah’s words meant that God can hold in His hands all the waters, every ocean, every river and lake.

Now take the span of your hand and measure the perimeter of this page you are reading. Isaiah says God “*measured heaven with a span.*”

He is a big God with a big heart and He has all of His attention on you. You are highly loved and highly favored, special to Him. Look into the wasteland of your hurts and disappointments. Satan has tried to establish and stake out boundaries for you there! If God can take all the sand, all the hills... even the mountains of the world and weigh them in a scale between two fingers, He can certainly change your situation. That is how big your heavenly Father is!



(1 John 4:4 NKJV) “You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because...

He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.”

He is a very big GOD!

Principle

His love for you is as big as He is!

Jesus prayed this to the father:

(John 17:20, 21 NKJV) "I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me."

WHO IS GOD IN YOUR LIFE?

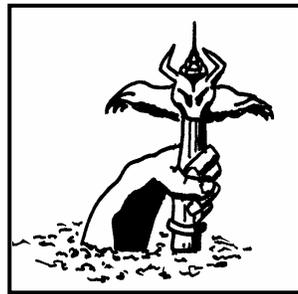
If you have given your life to Jesus, you can be as close to God as you would ever want to be. He is in you. He is available to you. You have an abiding relationship with Jesus, God the Father and the Holy Spirit. If you need understanding... if you need help... if you lack strength, look to the abiding presence of God. He is available always.

Perhaps a better question to ask is, **"Who can God be in your life?"** If you allow Him to, He will be all things to you. He will be your friend, your protector, your provider and will love you unconditionally every day, whether it is a good day or not for you. Your days may change, but He never changes.

(Hebrews 13:8 NKJV) "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever."

Many people are stuck in broken dreams and disappointments. They are held captive by the boundaries of their own emotions and inability to take hold of the hand of freedom Jesus has extended. If you could see clearly what keeps them from grasping His outstretched hand, you would see they all have a firm grasp on one particular idol. It is an idol because it takes a more important place than their relationships with God. Earthly relationships are never to be worshipped. Only God is worthy to be worshipped. Only a relationship with Him is ever satisfying.

Have you tried to take hold of someone's hand when yours is tightly clenched around something? You cannot do it! Holding onto idols of sorrow, self-pity, insecurity, selfishness, bitterness, fear, anger, shame, etc., will prevent you from reaching out to God for help. When you let go and get hold of God, you will know who He is! Here is how you let go...



(2 Corinthians 10:5 NKJV) "...casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,"

It is time to take hold of your faith and believe that God is who He says He is. Believe that He desires, more than anything, to be with you in a close, intimate relationship. It is time for an attitude adjustment. Refuse to ask ever again, God "Why?" Now begin to make it a habit to ask, God, "Show me who you are in my life? God is so many wonderful things. Below is a list of a few of them.

IN YOU.. HE IS..

- **The Bread of Life (John 6:35, 40, 51)**
I want more of You, Jesus! I will hunger for more of You!
- **The Light of the World (John 8:12)**
Thank God for Your light, Jesus! I will never walk in darkness!
- **The Door of the Sheep (John 10:7)**
I am eternally in Your hands and under Your watchful eye, Jesus. You are incredible! Fantastic!
- **The Good Shepherd (John 10:11)**
I shall not want! I need not fear. Lord, Your rod and staff will watch over, comfort and protect me. You never sleep nor slumber! I am so safe and secure, wrapped in the arms of your love!
- **The Resurrection and the Life (John 11:25, 26)**
You are my Redeemer. I will spend eternity full of never ending joy and peace! What an exciting prospect! Thank You Jesus!
- **The Way, the Truth and the Life (John 14:6)**
Lord, You provide my way, every day. You provide the truth that keeps me free. You provide my daily breath of life. You are always with me. You are the Guarantee of my eternity! Hallelujah!
- **The True Vine (John 15:5)**
Jesus, I am eternally joined with You, and will be loved forever... I am Connected!
- **The Great I AM (John 8:58 and Exodus 3:14)**
You are absolute in faithfulness... infinite in power... Ruler over all things... *and*, You love me with a love than can never be fully described on this side of heaven! Awesome!
- **The Hope of Glory (Colossians 1:27)**
All the riches of Your glory are mine! You have given them to me.
- **The Faithful Potter... The God of Peace (Jeremiah 18:4-6 and Hebrews 13:21)**
Jesus, You are working in me to make me complete in every good work. I am so blessed!

(Hebrews 13:21 NKJV) “Now may the God of peace who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you complete in every good work to do His will, working in you what is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.”

Take a final look at the Lord Jesus Christ. See how awesome, holy and mighty He really is! See clearly beyond the boundaries of your pain and disappointment. See by faith. See who He is. Then, ask Him for yourself, “Lord, show me who You really are!” If you will, He will open your spiritual eyes and you will see His glory. It will strengthen your heart, bring hope to your life, and faith to your future.

(Revelation 19:11-16 NKJV) “Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.”

Where was God?

As we have seen, it is the wrong question to ask, but be assured, He has been sitting on His throne, watching over you, and loving you with all of His heart. The right question to ask in every situation is always, “Who is God.” He will answer that question every time. If you seek Him, you will find Him.

WHO IS GOD?

He is the God who loves you unconditionally and faithfully forever. Let your faith reflect the truth, that when the time comes, He will sit upon His white horse. He will wear His crown and a robe dipped in the blood of His New Covenant. He will go forth and all will see and bow the knee, for He is King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

He is the
KING OF KINGS
and
LORD OF LORDS

... And He is everything you could ever need. The Scriptures tell us He not only loves you, but He is Love! (1 John 4:8, 16)

Let this always be your confession.

“God, I trust in you with all my heart. I will draw closer to you every day. I will have faith that I can rest my troubles, my desires and my future in your hands. You are forever faithful to me.”

*God bless you as you faithfully serve Him.
Dr. Bob Abramson*