

## ***WHERE IS GOD IN ALL OF THIS?***



Who would have ever imagined that a **microscopic virus would invade the entire planet earth targeting human beings** and would stop the world in its tracks?

There are people who have lost their jobs, are forced to move out of their homes for lack of money to pay rent. Not to mention the pain and agony of the people who are down with Coronavirus, living in make-shift hospital tents, being tended to by nurses in hazmat suits, and their families praying with hope that they will make it out alive. Or those who are dying and can't have their loved ones even to say goodbye to them in their last moments.

The repercussions of this are far-reaching and heartbreaking. It's been devastating for so many of us, and **our hearts feel a culmination of pain from everywhere.**

When faced with a pandemic of such kind, we get to see the meaninglessness of so many things in our lives. The superficial fancy clothes and expensive cars, what does that give us, ultimately? How much importance does that have right now? Or the planning and planning and saving for 'later', when, **what if there is no later?**

None of us were prepared for this outbreak. Some are led to ask **how a good and loving God could allow pandemics such as this in our world.** In times such as this, it is normal and natural to ask, "Where is God?" Some would conclude that struggles such as these are evidence for the non-existence of God.

Friends, **hold on to your faith in God, especially at this time!** Know that God cares for us despite the pandemic and its effects. In fact, we can take time in prayer to derive strength from God to bear the trials and tribulations of life, and overcome them. God is our solace and succor.

I would readily concede that the misery and the sense of loss endangered by the virus and related difficulties are beyond words. Still, I would endeavor to **offer a few angles through which we can look at the situation and see whether we can still have faith in God:**

FIRST, it is quite clear that **denying the existence of God will not diminish the problem in any way.** It is true that people are disposed to look at the sufferings, which are sometimes more than they can bear, and conclude that there is no God. But we have to be clear that that conclusion does not help in the alleviation or abolition of suffering. On the other hand, faith in God can give us the strength to bear the suffering, and bring us hope that, with God's grace and help, things will change for the better.

SECOND, for those who believe, **God stays with us during our pain and never leaves us alone.** As the Psalmist puts it, '*even in the deepest valleys of suffering, God is there*'. The love shown by Jesus Christ on the cross affirms that God stays with us when we are afflicted. As a true friend stays with us when we are in pain. God, our Father and true friend, does not go away when we suffer, but stays with us.

THIRD, we have to acknowledge that **we live in a fallen and broken world and suffering is part and parcel of life.** The present pandemic is a crisis delivered by nature. Here, we must accept the simple truth that you and I sometimes suffer not because of our own mistakes, but because of others' faults, too. No one is exempt from suffering in this world.

FOURTH, we need to learn more readily to accept that **life in this world is only a temporary one, and everlasting life begins when we live with God in heaven.** This acceptance helps us to hold on to our faith in God and in eternal life that is not limited to our existence on earth.

Remember that **we, human beings are resilient little creatures - that means you and me.** Yes, you reading this right now! You are a resilient being and this crisis is going to make you stronger. This is a time for us, humans, to re-analyze the world we live in. To take a break from the rat race that is in society and find something authentic and true within ourselves.

**The story of humanity will not end with us being annihilated by the coronavirus, we will overcome and will surely share our brave survival stories with generations to come.** Hopefully, what will die out is an old stale form of society. Perhaps this is an opportunity for humankind to make a more sustainable world, not only for the planet but for us humans too.

*“We must be willing to let go of the life we’ve planned, so as to have the life that is waiting for us.” ~ Joseph Campbell*

**Stay Home, Stay Happy & Stay Safe!!!**

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