

SEPTEMBER 2022

LION'S ROAR MAGAZINE

A Monthly Publication of the City of Praise Family Ministries

WHERE IS GOD WHEN I HURT?





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Dear City of Praise Family,

- 8 *Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble.*
- 9 *Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult. On the contrary, repay evil with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing.*
- 10 *For, "Whoever would love life and see good days must keep their tongue from evil and their lips from deceitful speech.*
- 11 *They must turn from evil and do good; they must seek peace and pursue it.*
- 12 *For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their prayer, but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil."*

(1 Peter 3:8-12 NIV)

This is the mark of a true child of God.

God bless you,

*Bishop Joel and
Pastor Ylawnda Peebles*

LION'S ROAR STAFF

Bishop Joel Peebles & Pastor Ylawnda Peebles,
Diane George and Evan George

WHERE IS GOD WHEN I HURT?

By: Bishop Joel Peebles

Where is God when the world is hurting, suffering, mistreated and in sorrow? We all go through it at some time in our lives, and some have suffered much more than others. And many have wondered, "My God where are you and don't you even care?"

I. There are people who have walked away from God because they experienced tragedy in their lives.

"Ted Turner is a strident nonbeliever, having lost his faith after his sister Mary Jane died of a painful disease. 'I was taught that God was love and God was powerful,' Turner said, 'I couldn't understand how someone so innocent should be made or allowed to suffer so.'"

(Excerpt From "Turner Was Suicidal After Breakup," NYTimes.com, April 16, 2001)

Significantly, we see this again in the life of Charles Darwin. Darwin grew up going to church and his family continued to do so after he married. But Darwin had a daughter named Annie, and when she became ill, Charles' life was deeply impacted. It is said in his biography that:

"Any vestige of belief in God left him when his daughter Annie died. Annie's cruel death destroyed Charles' belief in a moral and just universe. Later he would say that this period claimed the final death nail for his Christianity. Charles now took his stand as an unbeliever.²"

(Excerpt from "Darwin: The Life of a Tormented Evolutionist")

II. My daughter Janay came to me one day with a question:

"Why is it that mean, bad and unholy, people receive blessings, while there are good people who rely on God and live by His Word who struggle and can't seem to get blessed?"

III. God didn't create the world like this. The created world was a perfect place.

Allow me to give you a brief history lesson. When God created the heavens and the earth, the animals, man and woman, He was very pleased with His creation.

Genesis 1:31

And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day.

"To have been very good, God's creation must have been without blemish, defect, disease, suffering, or death. There was no 'survival of the fittest.' Animals did not prey on each other, and the first two humans, Adam and Eve, did not kill animals for food. The original creation was a beautiful place, full of life and joy in the presence of the Creator. Both humans and animals were vegetarians at the time of creation. *In Genesis 1:29–30 the Lord said, "See, I have given you every herb that yields seed which is on the face of all the earth, and every tree whose fruit yields seed; to you it shall be for food. Also, to every beast of the earth, to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, in which there is life, I have given every green herb for food."*

—Scientist Ken Ham

IV. God gives man this gift.

Genesis 1:26

And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over ... all the earth

V. This extraordinary gift was ours to keep, but through Adam's sin and the resulting fall of man, we just give it away to Satan.

Luke 4:6

(Satan speaking to Jesus in the wilderness) "I will give You authority over all these kingdoms and all their glory," he said. "For it has been relinquished to me, and I can give it to anyone I wish.

VI. Janay's answer to man's pain question.

Psalms 92:6–8, 13, 16

*How great are Your deeds, O Lord,
Your thoughts are very deep.
The ignorant man does not comprehend them,
Nor does the fool understand them.
When the wicked spring up like grass,
And workers of iniquity flourish,
It is that they may be destroyed forever. . . .
The righteous shall flourish like the palm tree,
And grow mighty like a cedar of Lebanon. . . .
To declare that the Lord is upright,
My Rock in Whom there is no unrighteousness.*

VII. Not every chapter in life is easy, and some hurt really bad, but know that pages turn and seasons change. Eventually good and Godly people get the victory, even if their victory is eternal life.

"Consider the pattern of human affairs: how falsehood, having no legs, cannot stand; how evil tends to destroy itself; how every tyranny has eventually invoked its own doom. Now set against this the staying power of truth and righteousness. Could the contrast be so sharp unless something in the scheme of things discouraged evil and favored the good?" (Excerpt from "Anatomy of Faith"

—Rabbi Milton Steinberg)

VIII. What is happening to men when something bad happens?

God does not bring pain, but often He will use the pain that you go through to mold you and build your faith as you see how He can bring you through it.

Proverbs 20:30 (GNT)

Sometimes it takes a painful experience to make us change our ways.

IX. A Word for Those who are in a Tough Season

1 Peter 4:12&13 (MSG)

Friends, when life gets really difficult, don't jump to the conclusion that God isn't on the job. Instead, be glad that you are in the very thick of what Christ experienced. This is a spiritual refining process, with glory just around the corner.







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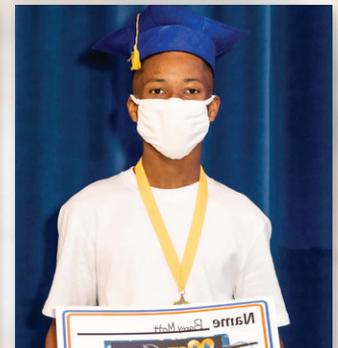
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