

he patiently tolerates and suffers the sinful choices of mankind, their wrong decisions, and the pain they bring upon themselves.

To those who have been wounded and hurt, disappointed by someone's unfaithfulness or dishonesty, please know that the Lord is not like that. God is who he says he is. The Bible says, *"We can rely on the love that God has for us. God is love!"* (1John 4:16).

He doesn't change like the wind or have mood swings (James 1:17). He loves you. He desires your fellowship even more than you long to be truly loved. Whether we are facing death or illness of any kind, God cares. He looks at you with compassion.

He wants to comfort your spirit and soothe your aching heart (1Peter 5:7). We only need to turn to him, confess our sin before him, and ask him to come into our lives (1John 1:9, Ephesians 2:8-9).

Jesus says, *"I stand at the door and knock. If you hear me calling and open the door, I will come in, and we will share a meal as friends"* (Revelation 3:20). He will give you peace in the midst of trouble. Just trust him right now and see what he can do (Proverbs 3:5-6).

8. God wants to be Your God.

The choice is up to you! If you want to know for sure that your sins are forgiven and that you will live forever with Him in Heaven, pray something like this:

Dear Jesus, I confess that I am a sinner in need of a Saviour. Thank You for sacrificing Your life to save me, then rising to life again that I may spend eternity in Heaven with You. I turn now from my sins and invite You into my life. Help me to live in a way that pleases You, for whatever time You give me here on earth. Amen.

Now, as a child of God, you will never be turned away (John 10:28). You will never be excommunicated, never left alone (Hebrews 13:5). And when this life is over, you will be welcomed into Heaven, a place without tears, death, or pain (Revelation 21:4).

So dear hurting friend, try to understand that God loves you. He aches for you, and longs to be your Comforter. He cares when your heart and body is pained too deeply for joy and song; When the burdens press and cares distress and the days grow dreary and long. Oh, yes, He cares, I know he cares. He invites you to *"Cast all your cares upon Him, because He cares for you"* - (1Peter 5:7)

Please don't give up on God.

After all... **He'll never give up on you!**

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So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.
- John 8:36

**WHY DOESN'T
GOD DO SOMETHING
ABOUT SUFFERING?**



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WHY DOESN'T GOD DO SOMETHING ABOUT SUFFERING?

We have all experienced times when we have been hurt, wounded and, at the least disappointed. Perhaps someone betrayed our trust, mismanaged our belongings, or said things that stabbed like daggers in our already fragile heart.

Some of you have held the hands of loved ones as they passed from this world. Perhaps someone's carelessness on the road put them there.

It wasn't fair. It was not right. It wasn't called for. Why does this happen?

Hundreds of people are evacuated from our cities as floods or fires reek unbelievable havoc. People are killed and thousands of homes are destroyed leaving untold numbers of people without homes or jobs. Physical diseases are on the increase; our hospitals are full and cancer is now the number one killer!

People cry out... *"Where is God? Does He care? Why doesn't He stop all this?"*

We all have Questions.

'Why would a loving God do this? If He's really there, couldn't He stop the madness we experience in the course of this life? Why can't God heal me?'

Have you had these questions burning in your heart? You are not alone, and God does not condemn questions. God has long been accused of *"not doing enough."*

But God does care and to get the answer to *"why He doesn't do something,"* we must see His point of view, as stated in the Bible.

1. God has given mankind Freedom to Choose how they will run their lives.

People can choose to follow God or do their own thing (Romans chapters 1-3). Often people make wrong choices. They sin and harm themselves and hurt others.

God is grieved when people despise his wisdom. He has given us the Bible so that we can learn to make right decisions (2Timothy 3:16-17, James 3: 13-17).

2. God is not Directly Intervening in World Events at this present time

God cannot intervene without removing or changing the freedom of choice which he has given. He cannot arbitrarily help one person, without helping all. He cannot be just and fair and also show favoritism.

The times when God did intervene in history to correct wrongs, resulted in severe judgment upon humanity, such as the Flood, the Tower of Babel and Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 6, 11, 18 -19).

3. One Day God Will Intervene

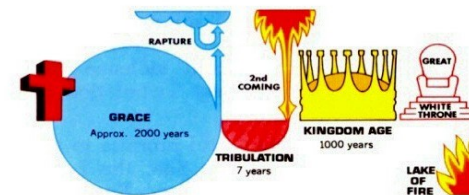
When Jesus returns, he will remove evil, (Acts 17:31, 2Thessalonians 1: 7-10) right the wrongs and make this world a better place (Isaiah 2:1-5, 9:2-7, 11:1-10, 53-55).

4. God is often Expected to Do More

It was this way when Jesus was here. The people of that day expected Jesus to do more. To overthrow the Roman government and do away with the horrible oppression and suffering of the Jewish nation (Luke 24:21). He didn't, so many did not believe and were voting with the same crowd who later crucified him. They could not understand that his mission was to die for their sins and invite them into his spiritual Kingdom first (John 1:11-13).

5. God Operates on His Time Plan

The years from the cross of Jesus until he returns at the Rapture, is called God's age of Grace and the all-powerful God is restraining his intervention and is longsuffering, as he kindly offers eternal



salvation to all who will believe in Christ (1Timothy 2:1-6, 2Peter 3:9 & 15).

6. God is still in Ultimate Control.

Nothing ever catches him by surprise (Ephesians 1:11). God is waiting for people to turn to him and trust in him (Acts 17:27). When this age of Grace comes to an end, then God will once again act in world events. But for now, we see his power, compassion and love as