

## WHERE IS GOD WHEN I NEED HIM THE MOST?

### *The Shack – Part 1*

Have you ever wondered, Where is God in all this mess, in all this pain, in my suffering?

These are big questions, aren't they?

“How can a loving God allow such evil in the world?”

“Where were You when *I* needed You?”

“Where is God in *my* pain?”

So what do we do with these questions? How do we answer them? How do we find hope in the midst of our pain? And how do we know God is good when everything around us feels like He isn't?

### 1. **DON'T HOLD BACK.**

*“How long, Lord? Will you forget me forever?*

*How long will You hide Your face from me?*

*How long must I wrestle with my thoughts*

*and day after day have sorrow in my heart?*

*How long will my enemy triumph over me?”* Psalm 13:1–2

*“My God, my God, why have You forsaken me?*

*Why are You so far from saving me,*

*so far from my cries of anguish?*

*My God, I cry out by day, but You do not answer,*

*by night, but I find no rest.”* Psalm 22:1–2

*“I have found David, son of Jesse, a man after My own heart; he will do everything I want him to do.”* Acts 13:22

David is a real, sometimes gritty, example of how we can reach out and connect with God *through* our pain and questioning.

When we do, we find that . . .

### 2. **GOD MEETS US.**

In the midst of our pain, we often—and understandably—get caught up in the *why*? But a more important focus might be the *where*?

*“God has said, ‘Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.’”*

Hebrews 13:5

God is with us *through* the pain. Jesus promises to be with us through whatever we face.

*“Surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age”*

Matthew 28:20

*“I will ask the Father, and He will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever—the Spirit of Truth.”*

John 14:16–17

### 3. **GOD WAS THERE. GOD IS HERE.**

*“You have searched me, Lord,*

*and You know me.*

*You know when I sit and when I rise;*

*You perceive my thoughts from afar.*

*You discern my going out and my lying down;*

*You are familiar with all my ways.*

*Before a word is on my tongue*

*You, Lord, know it completely.  
You hem me in behind and before,  
and You lay Your hand upon me.  
Such knowledge is too wonderful for me,  
too lofty for me to attain.” Psalm 139:1–6*

Even greater, God loves you so much that He sent His Son to die for you. John 3:16 tells us, *“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”*

What does that have to do with God in our pain? In my pain?

Deeper insight comes from the apostle Paul in 2 Corinthians 5:18–19: *“All this is from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to Himself in Christ, not counting people’s sins against them.”*

Why? So God could heal us. So God could be with us.

God will not let us go, no matter what difficulties we face in this world. Consider some of these promises.

*“Come near to God and He will come near to you.” James 4:8*

*“As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you;  
and you will be comforted over Jerusalem.” Isaiah 66:13*

*“In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. And He who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit,*

*because the Spirit intercedes for God’s people in accordance with the will of God.” Romans 8:26–27*

What journey is God inviting you on today? What step is He calling you to take to meet Him in whatever circumstances you are facing? How will you answer?

