

## Why?

Dear Friends -

In these days of crisis, I am now frequently stopped and asked this question, "*Jon, what does the Bible say about all of this crisis which has frozen the entire world?*"

My reply to that serious question is so simple, because the best answer to a serious question is a simple one.

The answer: God is perfect love and is full of perfect grace. In that perfection, He is allowing this crisis to act as a "time-out" to get all people to STOP! and answer the three most important questions which every man, woman and child must answer before they die.

**Question No.1:** "*Adam, where are you?*" [Genesis 3:9].

You remember that Adam and Eve sinned by disobeying the only command that God required of them. If they obeyed, they would have continued to live in a perfect environment in a perfect emotional relationship and communication with God, their Creator.

When Adam and Eve chose to follow their own sinful emotional inclination to disobey God, and become "their own god", they released into the world the most deadly virus ever. This sin of self-independence, choosing to be their "own god and take their own way", brought in the reality the warning God had given them, ". . . the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day you eat from it you will surely die" [Genesis 2:17].

Death is separation from everything good and lovely, yes, including separation from our perfectly good and loving Creator.

When Adam + Eve chose to elevate their love of self over their love for God, they infected the entire human race with the strain of a death producing virus called "sin". This virus always, always, always kills every single person born into the world.

Two of the most wonderful words in all the Bible are these: "**But God . . . !!**"

**But God** knew Adam and Eve would sin. He had already set in place His eternal plan to draw sinful men and women back into the loving relationship which He desires for them.

Now we see the hand of the perfect loving Creator as He turns the page to open the next chapter to deal with man's now severed [in death] relationship with God.

This plan of reconciliation and redemption began with a single question, "Adam where are you?" [Genesis 3:9]. This question is the starting point for our own reconciliation back into an intimate relationship with perfectly holy, and perfectly loving God.

Yes, God had to get Adam and Eve to recognize and repent from their willful rejection and disobedience of His loving command for their best eternal welfare.

Gracious God now asks that exact same question of each and every one of us. God loves us and wants us to be in His family with Him for all eternity. To do this He must STOP! us and get our attention in silence, which will allow us to "hear" Him.

How does God get us to STOP! and listen to His question? He allows pain, distress, crisis and trouble to come upon us.

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What do we do when pain, fear, trouble and crisis hit us? Yes, we stop, look up to heaven and ask:

**Question No. 2.** *“Where are you God? How can a good loving God allow such trouble and pain in my life?”*

You see, we would NEVER stop our insatiable thirst to “seek pleasure and flee pain” unless the pain of life stops us and causes us to question our MORTALITY.

Yes, pain engulfs us when we get the result of our lab test back with a telephone call stating, “It doesn't look good, we need to meet and discuss what options are available to you.”

Or, we hear the dreaded, “We are restructuring, and need to lay people off. This will be your last paycheck.” Or, we hear, “Come quick, your son was involved in an accident, and it doesn't look like he is going to survive.”

Or, we are overwhelmed by this announcement from our government officials: “This COVID-19, Coronavirus, is exceedingly dangerous, uncontrollable and deadly. We have no known cure or treatment available at this time. We have ordered all our borders and businesses to close. We suggest isolation is the only potential management choice available. You must practice “social distancing”, staying at least 6' apart and, if possible, stay inside your homes. The future is uncertain and we have no idea when this crisis may abate.”

All of these crisis events freeze us in our tracks and we cry out, “Why, God? Where are you?” Every one of those events is God calling out to us like He did to Adam in the Garden, “Adam, where are you?” He is calling us to STOP! and look heavenward!

All of these events come with the hope to bring into the minds of the people who have rejected Him, but whom He loves so dearly, the following most important question of life.

The most important / critical **Question of Life** is this:

**Question No. 3.** *What do you believe to be true about Jesus Christ, who died on a cross outside of Jerusalem some 2000 years ago?*

Your answer to this question determines your entire never-ending future. It determines whether you will spend all of eternity in the loving embrace of a perfect Father in heaven, or separated from Him forever in a place of unending pain in hell.

Yes, God will not violate the great gift He has given every man and woman since Adam and Eve, the gift of “free-will choice.” Every person will choose to die either as a Christ-lover or a Christ-rejector.

Jesus Christ, God the Son, came to earth for the single reason to die. He came as the substitute to pay the death penalty required for sin [God's words in Genesis 2:17 “. . . you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die”]. This death penalty had to be paid for the sins of all men and women who trust in Him.

Returning to those great words “**But God** . . .”, we read the following:

**Romans 5:8** But God demonstrates His OWN love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ DIED FOR US.”

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It is likely impossible for our minds to truly comprehend the depth of love which God holds for us individually and is explained by the above truth.

God willingly brought upon Himself the **greatest crisis** ever experienced in all the universe. **Why?** Yes, because He loves His creation perfectly and was willing to die for them to bring them back to Himself. In His omniscience, He knew that for perfect love and perfect justice to be able to exist in His created world, He must die for us. And He did so, willingly. It was, indeed, agony and joy mixed together, for He was now able to reconcile His lost and separated family back to Himself!

God had to die to forever **eradicate** the **death-virus** of **sin**. It is a free gift to every one who will reach out their hand to receive it.

**Ephesians 2:4.** **But God**, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; **it is the gift of God**, 9 not of works, lest anyone should boast.

Yes, Jesus died so He could take the hand of corrupt sinful people. After His resurrection from the dead, Jesus received the power to give His perfect righteousness to people who trust in Him. *This allows Him to join the hands of a forgiven sinner to the hand of their perfect Father.*

*That, dearest friends, is the greatest love story every told!*

It all starts with these questions:

God asks, *“Adam, where are you?”*

Man asks, *“God, where are you? How can a loving God allow such pain and misery?”*

Jesus asks, *“Will you trust in Me by surrendering all of your life to Me for My care and provision?”*

If our answer to Jesus is “Yes, Lord!”, Jesus then replies, *I will provide the answer to both God the Father’s question to you, and your question to God. Then you will be with Me in heaven forever, when your journey through this world is finished.*

**Psalms 16:11** In Your presence is fullness of joy, and at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore [this is a description of heaven].

Now let’s again review the answer to the question, *“Why we are faced with pain in life at every turn, including this current crisis that has gripped the entire world in fear?”*

The clear answer:

Pain, trouble and fear has the potential like nothing else to STOP us and get us to ask, *“God, where are you?”*. It is a gracious, perfect, loving God simply asking us, like He did Adam, *“Adam [insert our own name in place of Adam], where are you?”*

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God is perfect love and understands this is the only way we, self-centered human creatures, who are infected with the deadly virus of sin, WILL LOOK up toward heaven and ask, “Oh, God, where are you?”

When we do so, Jesus can now draw us to Himself and give us the crucial answer we desire.

Every crisis, every pain of life, is allowed into our lives by an infinitely gracious and loving God who desires that ALL men and women return to Him to walk again, like Adam and Eve before they sinned, in unbroken perfect fellowship together in the perfect Garden.

**1 Timothy 2:3-6** God our Savior, who desires that ALL men be saved and come to a knowledge of truth. For there is one God and one mediator [the One who takes the hand of God and joins it with the hand of forgiven sinners], the man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself as a RANSOM for ALL.

Exactly what is the foundation and meaning of SALVATION? Very simply, it is this:

**Salvation is:** The surrender of all of one’s life . . . all plans, possessions, people [relationships], pride, power, potential, purposes . . . yes, everything to Jesus Christ . . . and persevere, in obedient trust, never turning back!!

**Acts 2:37** Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Men and brethren, what shall we do?” 38 Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call.”

**Acts 16:29** The jailer called for lights, rushed in and fell trembling before Paul and Silas. 30 He then brought them out and asked, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” 31 They replied, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household.”

**Romans 10:9** If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

If you are feeling overwhelmed with life and fear at present, and would like to visit in more detail about the Greatest Love Story Ever Told, you can email me at [WasItForMeRom832@gmail.com](mailto:WasItForMeRom832@gmail.com)

Or, you can go to our website [WasItForMe.com](http://WasItForMe.com) for additional helpful Bible truths. You can contact us from that portal, also. We count it a great, great privilege to pray for and with any who would like us to do so.

We love you very much and are very glad for the privilege to pray for you. Please remember to pray for us, also, for we are all in the same race of life and death.

We join with you in being overwhelmed by the Unfathomable / Unimaginable / Unlimited

Love of Jesus Christ for us and all people -

Jon + Philis Hileman

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When you have heard God's voice asking as He asked Adam, "*Where are you?*" (Genesis 3:9); when you have been arrested by your conscience and have been convicted by God, the Holy Spirit (John 16:8), of your sin, this page is your declaration of that event.

When God has spoken to you and you have asked Jesus Christ to be the Savior and Lord of your life, you will feel compelled to make it known (Romans 10:9).

Salvation is a private event occurring in the heart and no one except you and God can confirm it has happened (cf. Mark 4:13-20).

Even though salvation is a private event, being a follower of Christ requires a public profession. Jesus makes no option available to His followers to be undercover Christians (Romans 10:9).

*"So everyone who acknowledges Me before men, I also will acknowledge before My Father who is in heaven, but whoever denies Me before men, I also will deny before My Father who is in heaven"* (Matthew 10:32).

When you have heard God's voice,  
.. *tell somebody!*

Asking Jesus Christ to save you: [or similar words expressed by your own personality].

Lord Jesus, I know I am a sinner, and my sin separates me from God. Because God, the Father, loves me, He sent You to pay the penalty for my sin by dying on the cross to restore me to fellowship with Himself (1 John 1:9).

I ask you to forgive my sins and give me eternal life (Luke 11:13).

It is my deepest desire to love You and obey Your Words (Romans 10:9-10).

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Name: Sign above / Print below

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"Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent" (John 17:3).

Please email us a copy when this is completed, and we will regularly pray for you. Tell Somebody!

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Name of Person Told:

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Date:

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Name of Person Told:

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Date:

Email to: [WasItForMeRom832@gmail.com](mailto:WasItForMeRom832@gmail.com)

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