

“Where Are You, Lord?”

*“Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died.” (John 11: 20,32)*

At times when I am dealing with difficult situations I sometimes think that God has abandoned me. I feel so because I turn to God for answers and none are forthcoming when I need them. I, too, have asked, “Where Are You, Lord?” So, I can relate to Mary’s and Martha’s opening comments when they first met Jesus after the death of their brother.

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Two things of which I am mindful when I feel abandoned by God:

1. Avoid turning to another source for comfort which will railroad me off the path of righteousness, and down a dangerous road to sin. The anger, pain and sorrow is sometimes so great that one can easily look towards persons and things to help cope and feel better. It is not uncommon for persons to give up on God and turn to drugs, alcohol, other relationships, gambling, partying, over-eating etc. to soothe the pain. This is usually a quick fix, and it can have its own negative consequences later on.
2. Avoid the blame game! Is it possible that Mary and Martha may be blaming Jesus for Lazarus’ death?

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It was common knowledge that Jesus healed the sick and restored sight to the blind. Therefore if He were present He would have healed Lazarus. Some of the Jews said the same thing in verse 37 in a mocking way:

*“Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?”*

However, even if at times I may feel abandoned by God, I quickly take solace in His Word which says:

*“Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the LORD your God goes with you; He will never leave you nor forsake you.” - Deuteronomy 31:6*

“Heavenly Father,

*I thank You for being there for me as I cope with my difficult situation. Help me to be strong and courageous. I cast away the spirit of fear and I boldly declare that I know You are at work in the midst of my storm. Right now You are fighting my battles for me, and making a way. I thank You, O Lord, for Your*

*promise that you will never leave me nor forsake me. To God be the glory! In Jesus' mighty name I pray with thanksgiving. Amen."*

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