

WHERE WAS GOD?

There is a tremendous amount of material written about survivors of child sex abuse questioning God. **Where was God when I was being abused?** Currently there are approximately 223 million being sexually traumatized, many of whom in the future will be asking the same question.

So, where is He now? Our God has given us free will and the scriptures say that He grieves deeply in His heart over the evil that human beings inflict on one another. The Bible tells us over and over He is afflicted when we are. He cries. He bears our sorrow and pain. That's where He is. He's grieving. Here are the lyrics to a hymn written by Shirley Erena Murray, titled, "God Weeps". It covers all abuse and has a profound message for Christians.

God weeps at love withheld, at strength misused, at children's innocence abused
And until we change the way we love, God weeps.

God bleeds at anger's fist, at trust betrayed, at children battered and afraid
And until we change the way we win, God bleeds.

God cries at hungry mouths, at running sores, at creatures dying without cause
And until we change the way we care, God cries.

God waits for stones to melt, for peace to seed, for hearts to hold each other's need
And until we understand the Christ, God waits.

Maybe the real question should not be where was God, but rather where were we, Christians? Where are we now, Christians? God is agonizing deep in His heart over the children who are being sexually assaulted now and He is waiting for us to ask Him to help end their suffering. The fact that you are reading this means you have been called to rescue children from being sexually abused. You are a participating member of a collective called The Charlie Circle, whose purpose is to end child sex abuse now and forever. WOW! That's a big order. Hopefully you are not thinking that although the prayer circle is a nice idea, it's not as important as those who pursue the same goal through career choices. Here is what Jesus said about the power of our prayers.

"Early in the morning, as Jesus was on His way back to the city, He was hungry. Seeing a fig tree by the side of the road, He went up to it but found nothing on it except leaves. Then He said to it, "May you never bear fruit again!" Immediately the tree withered. When the disciples saw this, they were amazed. "How did the fig tree wither so quickly?" They asked. Jesus replied. "Truly I tell you, if you have faith and do not doubt, not only can you do what has been done to the fig tree, but also you can say to this mountain, "Go throw yourself into the sea; and it will be done. If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer." (Matthew 21:18-22)

Child sex abuse and all of the detrimental consequences for individuals and society is a very big mountain. But Jesus says if we are earnest with our prayers and do not doubt the power of God, we can stop child sex abuse. Where are we now, Christians? Here we are Lord. We have heard Your call. We want to do Your will.

Click on the link below for a rendition of, **Here I Am Lord**, for your meditations.

https://youtu.be/LaBKZCcKtA8?si=-xwFhxOP7_qzAfY9