



**“God, where
the hell
are you?”**

Brendan Mc Crossan

GOD, WHERE THE HELL ARE YOU?

THE ANGUISHED CRY.

The anguished cry from a despairing heart, crying out to God, in need of an answer - help, please God, help.

It may not seem very Christian to have such a title for a booklet. When God first put this title into my mind, I thought that is one little book that won't get into a bookshop, not with a title like that. I said Lord, I have to be hearing you wrong. You can't mean that you want me to write something with this kind of title. It doesn't seem right. God answered me by saying, people are crying out to me and this and much more are they saying and I want to answer them they need answers. He said, I know people's hearts. They are crying out to me with deep despair and the words they use to express their feelings are not polite but they're coming from their hearts and I read their hearts and now I will answer them.

If you are in a terrible dilemma, a very bad situation, you cry out to God from what's inside you. You do not say, oh, I have to be polite here. No, you cry out from the raw emotion that you are feeling. You scream at Him, God, where the hell are you?

Parents of a child who has just been knocked down and killed cry out, "God, why did you do this to us?" Every feeling and emotion is screaming out and to God - anger, rage, helplessness, fear and despair. All of this well up within them and those feelings come out and are expressed to God. They also cry out "God, where the hell are you?" Don't try and tell me that they don't because I've heard them. I've heard people say much worse to God. I've even heard them curse Him and you know God doesn't mind it as much as we mind it for Him - He's able to take it. God does not need you or me

to defend Him - He's big enough for that himself. God created us in His own image and likeness - Genesis 1:17. If you read your Bible you will see that God has feelings and emotions just like us - He gave us His - [read my little booklet 'God has feelings']. Satan, the devil warps some of the feelings we have by turning anger into rage desire into lust, admiration into envy. We have feelings and we display feelings at all times and in every situation - think about this.

HAVE YOU?

Have you ever stood at the edge of despair and cried out to God, "where the hell are you?" I hear people saying, "I never hear God, no matter how hard I try" and some of them have despaired of ever hearing Him. They have expressed those feelings to me and those are people from prayer groups, wanting to hear God even once. My heart goes out to them and I long to help them. Some of them I have helped to hear God.

Where are you God? - Only to hear a deep silence - no answer. You are not alone. Millions have cried out from the beginning of time and are still crying out to Him. Look at the words of the Psalm writer - **Psalm 22:1: My God, My God why have you forsaken me?**

Why do you refuse to help me or even listen to my groans? Day and night, I keep weeping, crying for your help, but there is no reply for you are holy.

Does this sound familiar to you? Jesus himself used these same words as He hung on the cross on Calvary. Even Jesus, when He was a man on this earth felt like we feel, including the despair that we sometimes feel.

Day and night I keep on weeping, crying for your help, but there's no reply. Pain, hurt, tears - all our inward being is crying out to the only one who can help us and He decides to stay silent. • God, the amount of times I have felt so angry at you for your silences. I

felt rejected and so dejected when you never answered me. Have you felt like me?

Is it wrong for me to feel angry with God you may ask? Is it wrong for me to feel even hatred towards Him at times? No, it is not - hate is a feeling and an emotion that people feel. It is not a good feeling but it is a feeling and you can not deny that feeling. It is there and you can't hide it from God. He reads your heart and knows that it's there. Religious people may frown on what I am saying here but you can't fool God. He knows exactly what you are feeling deep inside. Hate is a very strong emotion but one that people have, like the young girl who came from England to see me one time.

She expressed tremendous hatred towards God and I was surprised that she took up my offer of praying with her. She told me that her best friend had leukaemia and was dying and she prayed very hard for her friend to be healed and she believed that she would but sadly her young friend died. She had tremendous anger in her, directed at God, for allowing her friend to die, as He had the power to heal her and didn't. She asked me the reason why her friend died. I explained as best I could some reasons why that people die when we seem to have so much faith. One reason I gave her was - do we really believe our own faith? I said that I'd seen Christians proclaim that healing is ours. That we should claim it and say that they have great faith. But when I asked them if I brought in a cripple in a wheelchair would they pray over them right then and expect that person to be healed - to answer that truthfully - 99% said truthfully "No".

They would love to believe that way but when push came to shove, they didn't believe. We don't always believe what we say we believe. I explained to her about the blocks to healing that we have which prevent God from healing us. Blocks like UN-forgiveness, bitterness, resentment, the occult, reading your stars, having your fortune told, tarot cards and even worse, the Ouija board. And now the big thing is new age practices like reflexology, Aroma therapy and stuff like that. All these things are blocks between you and God. These are just a few of the things that prevent healing. She

listened to me as I told her about Jesus and what He did for us on Calvary. I told her about Jesus greatest moment of despair when He felt that God the Father had deserted Him and He cried out My God, My God, why have you forsaken me? and she understood that Jesus had felt exactly like she had - that God had betrayed Him.

I told her about salvation and the love that Jesus had for her and how He forgave her all her sins. I explained that she could spend the rest of her life with Jesus and spend eternity with Him as well. She again expressed her great anger at God but then decided to ask Jesus to come into her life as Lord and Savior. She said, "If I could get Him, I would probably strangle Him at this moment in time". Still she understood that there had been blocks in her friend's life. A little while later when we were sitting in my office, I heard the Lord telling me that she had a very sore back and that He wanted to heal her. I said what the Lord had told me and she was shocked, because she was in agony with her back. I prayed with her and she was healed in just two minutes - all pain had gone - Glory to God!

Her feelings and emotions were still very raw. Her pain over her friend's death was still there and I didn't tell her that it was wrong to feel like that. Her feelings were real - her anger and hatred of God were real, though now she had a different outlook on it. Those were her feelings and she had the right to them. God understood all those feelings and emotions and He proved it by healing her own back pain.

COT DEATH

A customer had been talking to me about her sister whose child had been found dead in its cot. She said it was terrible that her sister was now cursing God and had stopped going to Mass. She had turned her back on God and kept calling Him terrible names. The family were horrified and were trying everything to get her to stop saying those things about God. I told her to please tell her family to leave her alone with her feelings and to ask how they

would feel if this had to happen to them. I told her that her sister had probably more faith than they gave her credit for because you don't fight with and curse against someone you don't believe in. Her belief in God was very much in evidence; they just didn't see it. They were trying to get her to smother her emotions and smothering one's emotions is one of the causes of cancer. God understands that poor mother's feelings and her tremendous pain even more that they do and will not hold it against her. His love is total compassion and to have compassion means to understand how someone feels and to feel that with him or her. Just like the young girl whose friend had died, this mother was expressing all the pain that was inside her and that pain was very real.

KILL AND DESTROY

The saddest thing that I have discovered is that God is blamed for all the terrible things that happen to us and ours. The reality is that God is not the author of sickness or disease, death or poverty, destruction or disaster. He gets the blame either for causing it or for not preventing it and yet if we read our bible we will find that Satan is the one behind all those evil things. Jesus said, **I have come to give you life and the thief comes to kill and destroy John 10: 10.**

Do you see what Jesus is saying? He is saying that He is not the one doing all this evil on us - it is Satan - the thief's purpose is to steal, kill and destroy. To kill and destroy whom? Us, the children that God made and his greatest trick is to have us believe that God is the one who does these terrible things on us.

Satan is the great deceiver. He is the most cunning, fiendish, evil creature in existence and he is out to destroy everything that God has made. Think of this - **God is Love** - 1 John 4: 8 and we are told in 1 Corinthians 13: 4 what love is. Read it for you - **love does no wrong.** Do you hear that? Love does no wrong - God says that about Himself and expects us to follow His example. So, if

love is all it says it is, then love does not kill or destroy, does it.

The word of God teaches us that **through lack of knowledge my people perish**. In other words, ignorance of God's word, the Bible, is not helping you any at all if you don't know the promises of God regarding you or your children, regarding you and your finances or regarding you and your health and then Satan can rob you of all of it. Contrary to popular belief, ignorance is not blessed. If you don't know what belongs to you as a gift from God, then Satan can steal it from you without you even knowing it. God however, turns to good all the evil that Satan does on us. Look at the girl, who came from England to see me. She went away healed herself and with a lot more knowledge of God than she had when she first came. That was because I had learned from my Bible the nature of God Himself and was able to pass it on to her and she accepted it. God didn't want that young girl to die or that child to die a cot death - which wasn't God's plan for them. Long life - that's what God said - seventy years are given to us as a minimum.

Psalm 90: 10 - The Lord protects all that is mine.

Psalm 16: 5 - The Lord guards all that is mine.

If I didn't have some knowledge of God's promises, my eldest daughter's first child would have been lost through a miscarriage. Maria started to miscarry her child, and everyone said that it must be God's will, that the child must not have been formed right. All these things and more were said. As I sat there listening, inside of me the spirit of God was rising up in anger against what was happening to my daughter and to my grandchild. I told everyone to stop talking that way because we were not going to lose our grandchild, because God promised to guard all that was mine and this child within Maria's womb was our grandchild and was under the protection of God's power. We knew our rights as children of God, so Rose and I commanded Satan to take his hands off our

grandchild and we commanded the womb to become healthy and whole again, in Jesus' name.

A few months later, Maria gave birth to a lovely baby boy, whom she named Kevin. If we hadn't known the promises of God to us and to our children and to our children's children, we would have had no rights. I urge you to get to know your rights as God's children.

Study your Bible and find every promise of God to you and hold Him to it. He wants you to do this. God does not kill anyone and you need to give serious thought to that.

Jesus said that the thief comes to steal, kill and destroy. Who does the killing? Who is behind every evil act? Learn what God says and act on it. Stop being robbed of life, health, prosperity and peace of mind. Get stuck into your Bibles. If you don't have one, go out and buy one. It would be the best investment you would ever make. There are plenty of good Christian bookshops with books about the promises of God - most would be found in Protestant bookshops, such as Faith Mission in Belfast. Look up every Christian bookshop until you get one of these books. If you can't find one, then you should sit down with a pen and a notebook and write out every scripture that ends with a promise. Study it until it becomes a part of you and you can then stand on it.

GOD TURNS TO GOOD

Romans 8: 28: God turns to good all things, for those who love him.

Just as for the girl from England, God turned that sad time into a time of rejoicing for her. He saved her soul and healed her at the same time. Have you ever noticed that years later, things seem to work out for the good for people that had a death in the family. So many times, I have witnessed a death in a family and it seems like a tragedy but then you notice at the wake how many of the family go back to the Sacrament of Reconciliation and start going back to Mass again.

I know a man whose son died. He was a man who didn't bother about God and would have mocked anyone who was into God. When his son died, he was very angry at God but during the wake he went to Confession and whatever happened between him and God's representative, he is now attending Mass daily. I see him all the time. God turned his son's death too good.

Of course, I can't give a reason for what happens to everybody. If I could then I would be God! Some of what happens to us can be put down to our not knowing the promises of God and how we can obtain those promises. I have seen God turn even the most painful situations into good, much later. I have seen broken marriages like my own were, turned around. Now God uses my wife Rose and I to help others in similar circumstances.

A friend of ours husband was unfaithful and eventually left her for another woman. Many nights she would phone us crying and asking why God hadn't stopped him leaving. We tried to explain that God does not interfere with our free will. If He did we would be like robots. A few months later, she came over to Ireland to visit her family and Rose and I prayed with her. The Lord healed her of various ailments that she had had for quite some time. So God had turned this situation around by healing her. He also brought her into a relationship with Him. I don't know what the future will hold, whether the Lord will bring her husband back or not - only time will tell.

God's law

If we belong to Christ Jesus, He will turn to good all the evil that happens to us. He doesn't cause things to happen to us and does not want anything to happen to us but He knows that He laid down laws from the beginning of the world that even He himself cannot break. I will explain some of those laws. He laid down the law, which causes the sun and the moon to shine at their respective times. The sun won't shine at night time because God's own laws forbid it to and the moon won't replace the sun during the day -

that's God's law. God's law of healing won't change for you or me either. Jesus dying for us accomplished his law of healing. The truth is that Jesus has already healed everyone. **Matthew 8:17** says that Jesus took our sickness and bore our disease and by his stripes we are healed. You see Jesus already healed you and I and everyone in the world. Satan has deceived the world into thinking that they are sick and they accept that as fact, hence they get sick and say, we don't believe what Jesus did for us on Calvary. So Satan has a victory. So how do people get healed then?

God is moved by faith and people receive their healing by faith and faith has many different ways. Study your Bible and see for yourself the truth of God's laws. See for yourself what God has done for us. Another law of God is to let us sin if we want to. If God interfered in our lives, then we would not have a free will. God does not want anyone to sin but we know that we all do. It is not God's will for anyone to sin but he does not stop him or her. In the same way he does not interfere when people do wrong to others. His law was laid down - not to interfere, to let man have free will and man's free will imposes on others less fortunate than themselves and they do vile things on others, even on their own children.

It must be terrible hard for God sometimes not to break his own laws, when he sees so much suffering going on in the world that he created, knowing that he cannot interfere because of his own laws and decrees. We might not understand all this, especially when you may have been a child crying out to God to stop you being abused or tortured and he didn't answer you or so it seems. You cried out God, where the hell are you? Why aren't you doing something to help me? and the abuse continued and you got angrier with God and hate set in as well. If you think about it, an awful lot of people must be crying out to God for help, protection and justice and he never seems to listen. He's gone deaf, or so it seems. Sad to say, God cannot break his own laws or ordinances or chaos would follow. Faith moves God to act in all circumstances

but sometimes it is hard to define what faith is or if we even have it. If we don't know what belongs to us as children of God, then we can be robbed of God's blessings or protection or gifts.

I will give you an example of how to move God by faith. A friend and I discovered one time in the bible that God supplies all our needs. I decided that I wanted more than I had, as what I had then was very little. I told God that I needed a car and Rose agreed with me and said that she wanted a red one. A few weeks later we were given a Vauxhall Astra and it was red.

My friend however decided that he wanted to be humble and to live in poverty with, as he said a soapbox for a sofa. I got everything that I asked for whilst he remained with the "soapbox" for years. I read God's word and saw that what moved him to act was my believing what he said in the bible and my holding him to his promises. I discovered through reading God's word, the bible, how to know God and what he had done for me and you and I claimed all this for myself and my family and it worked.

Some people blame God for everything that goes wrong with their lives and God has nothing to do with it at all. There is God's law of gravity - what goes up must come down. If God were to break that law of his we would all go floating into space? You can't blame God if you go up a ladder on a stormy day and the ladder blows over and you fall and hurt yourself. That's not God's fault, it's yours - you should not have gone up a ladder on a stormy day. You see - the law of God is fixed and permanent. It can't be changed. It's fixed forever in heaven and it won't be changed until the end of the world, as we know it.

Another of God's laws is as Jesus said. **Matthew 21:22 As you believe, so shall it be**

Here is an awesome statement from the mouth of Jesus - as you believe, so shall it be. You see you are responsible for what you believe and sad to say, we believe the wrong ways. Far too often a lot of what goes wrong in our lives is because of our believing

and nothing to do with God at all. Ignorance of God's word, the bible, is the saddest thing I know because through our ignorance, Satan can have a field day with our lives and we blame God.

There are three forces at work in this world - God, Satan and you and we have to be aware of that fact. I have mentioned all three forces. You don't go up a ladder on a stormy day - that's your force. Satan is the thief that Jesus talked about, who steals kills and destroys - that's another force. God who is trying to bless us with life in all its fullness is another force and all have an effect on us. I will give you an example of those three forces at work.

GOD'S ANSWERS

I asked God for an answer to peoples questions "God, where the hell are you?" at Mass one morning and he answered me by saying, "read the story of Joseph and his coat of many colours. I thought to myself "what has Joseph's dream coat to do with my question?" But as I began to read the story, I began to see why God had told me to read it.

Genesis 37:3 Now as it happened Israel loved Joseph more than any of his other children because Joseph was born to him in his old age. So one day Jacob [his name was later changed by God to Israel] gave him a special gift - a brightly coloured coat. [I am going to shorten the story, as it is very long] His brothers were very jealous of him and to make matters worse Joseph had a dream of sheaves in the field and his sheaf stood up and all the other sheaves bowed down to his. The brothers were furious. Then he had another dream. He told them that the sun, moon and eleven stars bowed low before him, so even his father rebuked him, as it was obvious that it was them that he was talking about. One day Jacob sent Joseph to his brothers who were out in the fields with the flocks. When the brothers saw him coming, they decided to kill him, so they threw him down a well. Later they saw some slave traders coming and decided to sell him instead. So they sold him for twenty pieces of silver to some Egyptians and told his father

that some wild animal had killed him.

He was sold to a man called Potiphar, a member of Pharaoh, the king of Egypt's staff. **Genesis 39: 2:** The Lord greatly blessed Joseph, there in the home of his master, so that everything he did succeeded, so Potiphar gave Joseph complete charge of everything that he owned.

39: 7: One day Potiphar's wife began making eyes at Joseph and suggested that he come and sleep with her, but Joseph turned her down and she was mad at him and later accused him of trying to rape her. So her husband had Joseph put in jail. In jail, God began to bless Joseph and the jailer put him in charge of the jail. There were two other guys in jail with Joseph - the king's wine tester and his chief baker. Both of these guys had a dream and Joseph told them what their dreams meant. They told Joseph that when they got out they would tell the Pharaoh all about him. However, they forgot all about him and two years later Joseph was still in jail.

Pharaoh had a dream this time and the dream disturbed him greatly. He called all his magicians and sages to tell him what his dream meant and they could not. Then the wine taster remembered about poor Joseph and told Pharaoh about him. Joseph told Pharaoh what his dream meant and Pharaoh was delighted and released him from jail. He put him in charge of the country's food program because Joseph had told him that his dream meant that in seven years there would be a famine in all the land.

Seven years passed and there was a famine but Joseph had done his job well and had stored up grain and wheat and other food. There was also a famine in Joseph's land and Joseph's father sent Joseph's brothers to Egypt to buy food. When they came before Joseph they didn't recognise him as he looked like an Egyptian and of course was a lot older. So they bowed before him just as Joseph had seen in his dream. Joseph didn't reveal himself to them when he recognised them but sent them back to their father

but kept the young brother as a prisoner [read for yourself why]. God prospered Joseph's family, giving them the best land in Egypt and they lived there and grew in numbers into a great nation.

These are the words of Joseph in regard to all that happened to him:

Genesis 50: 20: as far as I am concerned, God turned into good what was meant for evil, for he brought me to this high position I have today so that I could save the lives of many people.

Do you see all the evil that happened to poor Joseph and God turned it all to good because he had a far greater plan for Joseph's life and for the lives of others. As Joseph said - he recognised that God turned to good all that was meant for evil. In the same way God also turns to good the things that were meant for evil that happen to us. Read this story for yourself. It makes great reading. I cut it short and put in my own way of expressing things, to make it easier to read.

Let's take a quick look over all that happened to Joseph. First of all he was his father's favourite [good]. Then his brothers hated him, threw him down the well and sold him into slavery [evil]. Potiphar took a liking to him [good]. Then Potiphar's wife took a fancy to him [evil]. She accused him of rape [evil]. He was thrown in jail [evil]. In jail the warden liked him [good]. Then the guys with him forgot all about him [evil]. Pharaoh had a dream, heard of Joseph and liked him and put him in charge of everything [good]. When famine came to all the land, God had used Joseph to have plenty of food stored up [good]. Joseph's brothers came and bowed down to him - his dream had come true [good]. He was reconciled to his father and brothers and forgave them [good]. God blessed all Joseph's descendants and all of Israel's descendants and made them a mighty nation [good].

The first evil thing that happened to Joseph, God changed in order to do a tremendous thing for all his future relatives. Some of the things that happen to us God also use to bring about great changes. Take a death - at a wake there's many a person turns back to God, when they go to confession maybe for the first time in years. God didn't kill the person who died but he does use the event to bring people, who have strayed, back to him. Many, many times I have seen and heard of people going to confessions, who hadn't gone in years. God turned the evil of death too good. I am sure that at the deaths of loved ones you too have seen relatives go to confession and Mass and Communion and have kept it up.

Romans 8: 28: we don't always know why things happen as they do but we do know that God turns everything to good for those who love him and are fitting into his plans.

No one but God knows why things happen but we do know that God loves us and changes the evil that Satan does on us to good, eventually.

POOR JOSEPH

Look at how often Joseph must have cried out "God, where the hell are you?" First, when he was thrown down the well and left to die and then when he was sold into slavery. A slave in those days was just that - they could do with you as they wished. 'God, where the hell are you' must have been his desperate cry especially as he probably thought that his brothers were changing their minds, while instead they had decided to sell him to slave traders. He must have screamed these words to God quite often on his journey into Egypt. They would have been whipping him and beating him to make him obedient to them.

Then later when your woman accused him of rape when he didn't even want to have sex with her, he must have cried out "God, where the hell are you, to defend me?". Then when he was thrown into prison, he must have cried that out quite often as he lay in prison. What would you have said to God in these circumstances?

All this and much more probably, maybe a little curse or two thrown in? There are some things, which we will never understand until we arrive in heaven and see our lives laid out before us by God. Then and only then will we understand why things happened as they did? I have had terrible things happen to me but God now uses my experiences to heal others. I lay sick for three separate years, paralysed with arthritis as a child. Now God uses me to heal arthritis within minutes. I can feel for people like myself. I know their pain and I get angry at the illness and attack it in prayer and 90% of the people I pray with are healed. God has turned to good what I suffered. Think about something here - Jesus suffered the loss of his earthly father. He knows how we feel when death comes around and he personally knows what death feels like and God used his death and suffering to save and heal all men. God's plans and purposes are greater than anything we could ever imagine.

Joseph cried out, God, where the hell are you? and God answered, **Behold, I am with you always. Yes, until the end of the world. Matthew-28-20**

And God says to you also, I am with you always. Yes until the end of the world. even if you don't feel me or see me or hear from me .

I pray that you will have received some insight into why things happen as they do and what God is doing about them. I pray that you will see that there are three forces at work in this world - you, God and Satan. I pray also that you will read your bible and get to know God better and understand God's word and all the promises in it. Find those promises and claim them for yourself and for your family.

CONTACT DETAILS

About the author

Brendan Mc Crossan, lives in Northern Ireland, He had a dramatic spiritual conversion. On 5 separate occasions God spared his life from imminent death.

Since his conversion Brendan and his wife Rose have been involved in a healing ministry. For the past twenty five years, Brendan and Rose have given talks at retreats and conferences, teaching on God's word and Healing, and on the Gifts of the Holy Spirit with practical teaching methods. Teaching peoples how to open up to the power of the Holy Spirit. Showing them how they can pray for the sick and see healing and miracles happen. They teach on spiritual subjects out of a rich source of practical experiences. Having had many experiences in their lives, and have been through it all with God's grace and love.

To Book Brendan or Rose for conferences

E-mail

Brenden.mccrossan@ntlworld.com

Or contact them at

Brendan and Rose Mc Crossan
18 Dunree Gardens
Creggan Estate
Derry
Northern Ireland
Bt489qf
Phone 02871-285873

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