In the midst of sickness, depression, unemployment, despondency and uncertainty—Where Are You GOD?

In the Gospel of John, Jesus said, "In this world, you will have trouble. "But take heart," our conquering Christ continues (John 16:33). "I have overcome the world. "Jesus is with us, ready to walk with us through the hard times. That doesn't mean it will be an easy road. But we won't be alone.

Here are **five answers** to encourage and spur you on during whatever uncertain season you're weathering.

Sickness & Suffering

God is exactly where He always has been—loving you, watching over you, and taking care of you in the midst of life's hardships, even when you weren't aware of it.

But most of all, He has been patiently waiting for you to make Him—instead of yourself—the center of your life. If you admit that you have never paid much attention to God; But He has been paying attention to you, and instead of getting angry at Him because things aren't going your way now, our prayer is that you will turn to Him and discover the strength and comfort He alone can give you. By a simple prayer of faith, turn to Jesus Christ and commit your life and your future to Him.

Then <u>trust Him</u> for whatever lies ahead of you. Learn as much as you can about your sickness; plan ahead; enjoy the good things God gives you right now. Most of all, make it your goal to grow closer to Christ—through prayer, the Bible, and fellowship with other believers.

Depression

Even when nothing seems to be going right, God hasn't abandoned us, and we can trust Him to see us through the hard times. The Bible's words are true: "Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail" (Lamentations 3:22). Commit your life—and your future—to Christ. Then ask Him to give you the strength you need to meet this challenge. Don't dwell on the past; dwell instead on the future, and on what God has for you in the days and years ahead. It isn't easy, I know—but "The Lord is faithful to all his promises and loving toward all he has made" (Psalm 145:13).

Feeling Overwhelmed

It's easy to feel helpless when reading about a famine or natural disaster in some foreign land that threatens the lives of millions. It's easy too to feel helpless when reading about the dropout rate in your local school system, or the number of homeless or hungry in your community.

No, you can't solve everything — but don't let that keep you from doing what you can! The Bible says, "As we have opportunity, let us do good to all people" (Galatians 6:10).

Remember: God can use our gifts in ways we could never imagine. Ask God to guide you in your giving. It may be by supporting the work your church is doing in your community, or by sending money to an international Christian humanitarian aid organization.

Unemployment

As we all know, our nation's economy has been going through a very difficult time the last few years. This is one reason why we need to be praying for our leaders (both in government and business), that God will give them wisdom to deal with our problems (see 1 Timothy 2:1-3).

The most important thing I can tell you is that God knows your situation, and He <u>loves</u> <u>you</u> and wants to help you deal with it. Does this mean a new job will suddenly become available? Perhaps so — you are urged to not give in to your discouragement, but to keep looking. God knows your needs and wants to help you; the Bible says He "comforts the downcast" (2 Corinthians 7:6).

Anxiety

The combination of a global pandemic and nationwide racial strife can trigger a panicked response. "Wars may rage; power-hungry despots may terrorize; accidents and natural disasters may destroy, but the future is in God's hands.

The Bible tells us that the end of the world—will not be the end! God will create a new world, one that's perfect and free from sin, sickness, death and fear. "In keeping with his promise, we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells" (2 Peter 3:13). All this is possible because of Christ's victory over death and hell.

Don't live in constant fear of the future. Instead, by faith put your life and your future into Christ's hands. He alone is our hope, and He alone is our security.