

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT CORONAVIRUS IN LIGHT OF THE BIBLE

The following program is designed to help people as they grapple with issues and problems presented by the coronavirus. Typical questions are raised and examined in light of God's Word. The program ends with the plan of salvation and an invitation for the listener to trust Jesus as Savior.

The program consists of 29 Questions and Answers. About halfway through the program an Intermission is given to aid persons who may have begun listening after the program started. Two persons lead the program, a host and a co-host. The co-host asks the questions and the host gives the answers.

Here are some suggestions as you plan and produce this program:

- The host should introduce himself by name at the beginning of the program. Then the host should introduce the co-host by name. Their names will add a lot of warmth to the program.
- You may want to consider using a woman for the co-host. The different voices (male and female) would help the listener and would provide variety in the program. However, it could be that in your culture, two men would be better.
- If both host and co-host are men, they should **not** have similar voices. For example, they both should not have a deep bass voice, etc. This is a very important point. It will help the listener immensely.
- From time to time, the host and co-host should use each other's name during the QnAs. For example, the co-host could say: "name of host, here's a question dealing with Satan and the virus . . ." At times the host could say: "Thank you name of co-host for that question." Or, "Thank you for that question name of co-host."
- The host should use warm and friendly language and tone of voice. He should never answer the question in a demeaning fashion regardless of the question. He should never express shock or surprise at the question. He should speak in a manner that puts listeners at ease.

- The host should be careful not to come across as a “know-it-all authority” that has all the answers. He should come across as a thoughtful and sincere person who has studied God’s Word. He should be open and unafraid to say “I don’t know the answer to that question.”
- The host and co-host should rehearse by reading aloud the Questions and Answers. There should be a good break between the rehearsal and broadcast to ensure that they are refreshed.

HARD QUESTIONS OF LIFE

(Music: Theme music not to exceed 11-14 seconds.)

HOST: Hello and thank you for listening to our program, brought to you by.. (CTTW). My name is _____ and my co-host is _____. Our program is called **Hard Questions of Life** and deals with the coronavirus in light of the Word of God.

The coronavirus has been gripping the world with fear and uncertainty. This is the most serious disease this generation is facing. Millions of people across the world and *(name your country)* have been impacted as a result of his virus. Many people have lost their jobs; families have been displaced; loved ones have been lost. Places of worship and commerce have closed in many areas. For many of us faced by this pandemic, unfortunately life may never be the same again.

When we are confronted with issues this huge, we are also faced with big questions, more questions, in fact, than we have answers. And among those questions, here is perhaps the biggest: How does God fit into all of this? Does He care about what is going on, or am I on my own to face this? Does God care about me?

If you are facing such questions, in today’s special program, “Hard Questions of Life,” we will be answering real questions asked by persons like yourself.

Let's begin by asking God to help us. **“Dear God, please help us today as we consider some important questions related to the coronavirus in light of Your Word. In Jesus' name, Amen.”**

My co-host, person's name, will be asking the questions. Are you ready with the first question person's name? Let's begin.

1. **Question:** What does quarantine mean?

Answer: To quarantine means to place in isolation. The coronavirus “COVID-19” is sweeping across many countries throughout the world, killing tens of thousands of people. Many people self-quarantine during this time; many governments order their people to quarantine or “stay at home.” The quarantine creates social distance and hopefully will stop the spread of the virus.

2. **Question:** Why does God not stop the coronavirus?

Answer: You have asked a good question. The answer is we do not know. We pray that He will stop it, and I believe He will do that in His time. In life, there are many questions we do not have answers to, particularly in times of hurricanes, flooding, earthquakes, tsunamis, and viruses.

Jim Elliot was 28 years old when he and four missionary colleagues were killed by the Huaorani Indians, called the Auca Indians at that time, in Ecuador in 1956. Elizabeth Elliot, Jim's widow, took their young toddler, Valerie, and went to make their home with the jungle tribe that had killed her husband to teach them about Jesus. Elizabeth writes: “What was I, a jungle missionary, to say to my own child of two when she learned the song “Jesus Loves Me” and wanted to know whether Jesus loved her daddy too? I gave her the truth: yes. Next question: Then why did He let the Auca Indians kill him?” Elizabeth spoke of the difficulty in trying to explain something she did not have all the answers to. Today, more than 60 years after the killing of the young missionaries in the Rio Curaray, we can know more of why God permitted that tragedy. It served as an awakening call all over the world to the need of telling others about Jesus. Hundreds of men and women volunteered to go to other lands and tell people about Jesus. That awful tragedy changed the lives of people all over the world.

Let me be perfectly clear: God did not **cause** the killing of the five young missionaries. I think their martyrdom was caused by the spiritual darkness and demonic forces in the killers. But God used the tragedy to bring the tribe itself, as well as countless others, to a saving faith in Jesus.

It may be that in the future we will be able to look back and see the hand of God in what is going on today. But at this point in time, we do not know why God does not stop the virus.

3. **Question:** Do you think God is trying to tell us something in the midst of the worldwide coronavirus?

Answer: Yes, I certainly believe God is speaking to the world today through this awful virus that is sweeping over the planet. I am not saying at all that God **caused** the coronavirus; we do not know why this plague has come. But we do know that God speaks to us in times like these. The British writer C. S. Lewis wrote: “God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks to us in our conscience, but shouts to us in our pains. It is His megaphone to rouse a deaf world.” Think about his statement again: **“God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks to us in our conscience, but shouts to us in our pains. It is His megaphone to rouse a deaf world.”** I believe God is speaking loudly to a world that has largely grown deaf to Him. The coronavirus is a megaphone that God speaks through. In my own words, I think God is saying, “People, wake up! I love you. Turn from your sin. Turn to Me. Call upon Me and I will deliver you.” The Word of God says: *“When I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or command locusts to devour the land or send a plague among my people, if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land”* (2 Chron. 7:13-14). Here is exactly what I think God is shouting to us in the midst of the deadly coronavirus: **(1) Humble ourselves, (2) Pray, (3) Seek God’s face** (continue to pray), **(4) Turn from our wicked ways.** God loves us very much and wants us to turn to Him.

4. **Question:** Sir, I do not want to offend you, but to be very blunt, I do not believe there is a God. If there were a God, He would not let bad things happen.

Answer: You do not offend me at all and I thank you for sharing. Your statement reflects the thinking of many people. Most people who do not believe there is a God give your statement as the main reason for their unbelief. God created a perfect world. He gave our first parents, Adam and Eve, a free will. They could choose to love and obey God or to disobey God. They made the wrong choice. Sin entered the world and continues to this day. Many bad things happen because of sin.

5. **Question:** Can you tell me why so many bad things have happened to me?

Answer: I have no way of knowing what bad things have happened to you, and even if I did, I probably could not give you a satisfactory explanation as to why they happened. Sometimes so many bad things happen to us that we are almost overwhelmed. The British writer C. S. Lewis lost his wife in 1960 after her long and painful illness. After her death he began to jot down his feelings of despair and grief in a journal. One day he wrote: "Cancer, and cancer, and cancer. My mother, my father, my wife. I wonder who is next in the queue." That can express our own situation and feelings at times.

I offer this word of encouragement to you: Permit the bad things happening in your life to turn you to God. God loves you and cares for you. He will be with you and sustain you.

6. **Question:** Is God angry with us?

Answer: No, God is not angry with us. He loves us with a personal and unquenchable love. God detests sin but He does not detest the sinner. God's Word says: *"The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness, since what may be known about God is plain to them because God has made it plain to them. For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being*

understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse” (Rom. 1:18-20). Creation itself teaches us that there is a God and that He has infinite power. Mankind has turned away from this revelation of God and turned to godlessness and wickedness. God’s wrath is toward sin, not the sinner. God hates sin, but loves the sinner. The children’s song is true: “Jesus loves me this I know, for the Bible tells me so.”

7. **Question:** Does God want us to die?

Answer: No, God does not want us to die. He loves each person and is concerned about each one of us. The Word of God tells us that God takes notice even when a little sparrow falls to the ground. Jesus said, *“So don’t be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows” (Mt. 10:31). God loves you and wants you to live.*

8. **Question:** Exactly what is an act of God?

Answer: An “act of God” is an expression used today to refer to natural disasters or natural forces or events outside human control. Hurricanes, tornadoes, and earthquakes are examples. I personally think it is unfortunate that we use “act of God” to describe these events, for it gives the impression that God is sending these bad things to us. The expression could confuse people, and cause them to turn away from God. I think “natural disasters” would be a better expression. I like to think of the many good acts of God. When I awaken in the morning and see a glorious sunrise, I am witnessing an act of God. Springtime in the mountains when the trees put on their summer clothing is a beautiful act of God. The greatest of all acts of God was when He sent His Son into the world. The Word of God says: *“For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him” (John 3:17).*

9. **Question:** I’m scared. I have no husband and live alone with my little girl. I have no job and no money. I’m afraid to leave the house because of the virus. Do you have any advice for me?

Answer: Thank you for sharing. It’s hard to imagine what you must be going through. Let me share some thoughts from God’s Word that I think will be meaningful to you. God’s Word says: *“You will not fear*

the terror of night . . . nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness, nor the plague that destroys at midday. . . For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways” (Ps. 91:5-6; 11). I believe with all my heart that God sends His angels to help us in times of need. God knows who you are. He knows you by name. And He knows your daughter. He loves both of you. Turn to God and ask Him to help you. Are you a Jesus follower? If not, turn from your sin and trust Him as your Savior. Commit your life to follow Him. Jesus has promised in His Word: “’Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.’ So we say with confidence, ‘The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?’” (Heb. 13:5-6).

10. Question: Do you think God wants to comfort us and reassure us during the coronavirus?

Answer: Yes, I certainly think God has words of comfort and reassurance for us during this time. God says in His Word: *“You will not fear the terror of night . . . nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness, nor the plague that destroys at midday . . . For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways” (Ps. 91:5, 11).* Throughout the history of the Jewish people, calamity after calamity struck. God told them over and over that He cared for them and would help them. I think perhaps the worst calamity that came to the people was their slavery in Egypt that lasted several hundred years. God’s Word says: *The Israelites groaned in their slavery and cried out, and their cry for help because of their slavery went up to God. God heard their groaning . . .” (Ex. 2:23-24).* Finally, when it seemed to them that all hope was gone, God said to an 80 year old shepherd named Moses: *“I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering. So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians” (Ex. 3:7-8).*

The prophet Isaiah spoke for God to the people and said: *“When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze” (Isa. 43:2).* God loves us very much and wants to comfort and reassure us during this time of crisis.

11. **Question:** I keep reading where you quote a lot of promises and reassurances from the Bible. I thought all of these promises were made to the Jewish people. I am not a follower of Jesus. Do these promises apply for me?

Answer: Thank you for asking that question. You are correct in that the promises and reassurances I have shared from the Old Testament part of God's Word were given to His special people, the Hebrews. However, I think God's promises have a wider application than solely to the Jewish people. All people everywhere in the world, no matter where they live or their religious background, can trust in the one true God and turn to Him. We turn to Him by trusting His Son Jesus as Savior and following Him. When we do that, we can claim these promises and reassurances given by God.

12. **Question:** The coronavirus is all over my country. I pray to my gods every day for the lifting of this curse. Am I wrong in doing so?

Answer: Thank you for your question. My answer will be a bit long, so stay with me. There is only one God, not many. The Word of God proclaims: *"The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they display knowledge. There is no speech or language where their voice is not heard. Their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world"* (Ps. 19:1-4). This passage tells us that the heavens and skies are speaking. They are talking in a language that can be understood by every person in the world. They are declaring the glory and majesty of God. In other words, when we look up into the beauty of the skies and sun by day or behold the stars and moon at night, we can realize that a great God created the universe. It took Someone with all power to create all that we see. There is beauty and order in the universe. If there were many gods, the reverse would be true. There would be nothing but confusion and chaos. Nature itself proclaims that there is one God, not many. The Word of God also says: *"For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse"* (Rom. 1:20). In other words, when we see the created order, the world and the heavens, we can know that there is a

divine God and that He has eternal power. This knowledge of God through the divine order of nature is available to people in every culture in the world. It transcends language barriers and is available to all people. We can know from what we observe about the heavens and earth that there is one God.

Not only can we know that there is one God by the divine order of what He has created, but His written revelation, His Word, tells us explicitly that there is one God. After miraculously delivering the Israelites from slavery in Egypt, God said to them, *“You were shown these things so that you might know that the Lord is God; beside him there is no other”* (Deut. 4:35). The mighty deliverance of the Hebrews from slavery shows that there is one God. God also said to the people: *“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one”* (Deut. 6:4). The Hebrew prophets thundered out to the people that there is only one God. The last prophet in the Old Testament of God’s Word said: *“Have we not all one Father? Did not one God create us?”* (Mal. 2:10). The New Testament of God’s Word says: *“For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all men”* (1 Tim. 2:5-6).

I say this kindly but sincerely. You need to turn from your many gods and look to the one true God. There are not many gods. There is one God. He knows all about us and loves us very much. He sent Jesus to die on the cross for our sins. I urge you to turn from your sins and trust Jesus as your Savior. Make a commitment to follow Him for the rest of your life.

13. Question: Does God have all power? If He does, then why does He not stop the coronavirus?

Answer: Your first question I can answer; the second one I cannot. Yes, God has all power. He alone is God and He has all power. He spoke the universe into existence. He created the mountains and the valleys, the rivers and the oceans, the stars and the moon. During the time of Abraham, God spoke to the old man and asked him a question: *“Is anything too hard for the Lord?”* (Gen. 18:13). Many years later the prophet Jeremiah answered that question: *“Ah, sovereign Lord,*

*you have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and outstretched arm. **Nothing is too hard for you***” (Jer. 32:17).

We do not know why He has not stopped the coronavirus. We are not God and do not have His perspective on everything. I do think God will put a stop to the virus in His time. Our job is to trust Him, even when we cannot understand or see the way.

14. Question: Am I on my own during this crisis?

Answer: You are not on your own. Sometimes it seems that we are, but I can assure you that we are never alone. Jesus has promised to be with us, no matter what the circumstances are. He said: “*Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you*” (Heb. 13:5). An unknown writer penned the following words, later made into a song:

“I’ve seen the lightning flashing,
And heard the thunder roll,
I’ve felt sin’s breakers dashing,
Trying to conquer my soul;
I’ve heard the voice of Jesus,
Telling me still to fight on;
He promised never to leave me,
Never to leave me alone.
No, never alone, No, never alone,
He promised never to leave me,
Never to leave me alone.”

(Music: swells to indicate change, then fades)

INTERMISSION

Host: Thank you for joining us in this program. It will continue in a moment. My partner, *name of co-host*, and I are dealing with some questions related to the coronavirus that is gripping the world with fear and uncertainty. Millions of people across the world and *name of your country* have been impacted. This pandemic raises many questions for us; more questions in fact, than we have answers. And among those questions, here is what I think is the biggest: How does God fit into all of this? Does He care about what’s going on or am I on my own to face this crisis? Does God care about me?

Let's continue now as name of co-host shares more questions that people like yourself are asking.

(Music: swells to indicate change, then fades)

15.Question: Is Satan more powerful than God?

Answer: No, Satan is not more powerful than God. God is omnipotent. This means that God has all power. Only God is omnipotent. God can do anything.

16.Question: Is Satan behind the coronavirus?

Answer: We do not know the answer to your question. What I do know is that Satan will use this plague to further his evil purposes and try every way he can to keep people from turning to God. You and I should remain close with God and look to Him for help and comfort.

17.Question: I do not believe any of the answers you have given to the questions asked. Here is why I do not believe there is a God: **If God were all good, He would want to prevent the awful coronavirus. If He were all-knowing, He would know how to stop it. If He were all powerful, then He would be able to prevent it. Because the coronavirus exists, it proves there is no God.**

Answer: You have raised a very good point. Thank you for what you have shared. We are in the midst of fear and suffering. We have a very limited perspective on what is going on from our finite view. God has a very different perspective. He sees things in light of eternity, of a bigger picture than what you and I have. God is all-good. He is all-knowing. He has all power. We must trust Him even when we do not have answers. We must trust Him even when it seems He has forgotten us.

18.Question: If I follow Jesus, will I be spared from the coronavirus?

Answer: As followers of Jesus, we have never been promised to be spared from the hardships and suffering and problems of life. Being a Jesus follower does not exempt us from sickness and disease. The

Word of God says, speaking of God Himself: *“He causes the sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous”* (Mt. 5:45). The same is true of the hardships of life. Some of the best followers of Jesus suffered greatly. John the Baptist had his head cut off because he denounced sin and told people about Jesus. Stephen was a young man who was stoned to death because of his faith in Jesus. The apostle Paul was executed because of his faith. But you and I have been promised something better than being spared from hardships. God has promised to be with us, no matter what happens. David wrote in the Word of God: *“Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me”* (Ps. 23:4). God is with us, so we don’t have to be afraid.

19. **Question:** I heard a man on television say that the coronavirus is a result of sin that exists in a fallen world that has turned its back on God. Is this true?

Answer: It is not correct to say that the coronavirus is a result of sin. No one knows for sure why this plague has come. But the second part of what the man said is true. We do live in a fallen world and we have turned our back on God. God created a beautiful world and placed our first parents in it to care for it. He gave them a free will; they could choose to obey or disobey. Adam and Eve chose to disobey God. Sin entered the world. The earth itself was cursed because of their sin. But you and I cannot simply blame Adam and Eve. We too have chosen to disobey God. We are sinners by nature and sinners by choice. God’s Word says: *“There is no one righteous, not even one; there is no one who understands, no one who seeks God. All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one. . . . for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God”* (Rom. 3:10-12, 23).

20. **Question:** Does God ever send natural disasters and calamities to punish people?

Answer: Yes, sometimes God **does** send something to punish people for their sins. God sent a worldwide flood in Noah’s day because of the sins of the people. God’s Word says: *The Lord saw how great man’s wickedness on the earth had become, and that every inclination*

of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time” (Gen. 6:5). Sounds a lot like the present day, does it not? God sent ten plagues upon Egypt because Pharaoh would not free the Hebrews from slavery. God withheld rain for three and a half years from the land of Israel during the time of the prophet Elijah because of the sins of the people. God punished the kingdoms of Israel and Judah by permitting them to be defeated and carried away into captivity.

21. **Question:** If God sent natural calamities on the people in biblical times, I think it is correct to say that God has sent the coronavirus on us today. Am I correct in my thinking?

Answer: When something like an earthquake or hurricane or tsunami or virus pandemic takes place, I do **not** think it is correct to say that God sent it. We do not **know**, and where God is silent regarding the cause of the calamity, we should not take it upon ourselves to think we know the mind of God. He may have sent some disaster or He may not have sent the disaster. Knowledge of those things belongs to God. For example, a tower on the outskirts of Jerusalem fell and killed 18 people. Jesus said, *“Do you think they were more guilty than all the others living in Jerusalem? I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish”* (Luke 13:4-5). Jesus was saying that the tragedy that killed those 18 people was not because of their sins.

At the same time, when some disaster strikes, like the coronavirus, we should turn to God in repentance for our sins and ask Him to help us, regardless of why the virus is with us.

22. **Question:** I have experienced a lot of hardships and suffering in my life. I wonder why God has permitted all the bad things to happen to me. Do you have any word for me?

Answer: I will tell you a story that I think will be helpful. Corrie ten Boom was a lady from the Netherlands who was a watchmaker, along with her father and sister Betsie. Devout believers in God, they hid Jews from the Holocaust of the Nazi regime during World War II. They were discovered and sent to concentration camps themselves. Corrie’s father and sister both died. Corrie, assigned to Ravensbruck, suffered greatly during her imprisonment. Due to a clerical error (I wonder who led the clerk to make the error?), Corrie was finally

released from the concentration camp. She returned to Holland and eventually began speaking about her time in Ravensbruck and telling people about Jesus.

One of Corrie's favorite illustrations was a beautiful piece of embroidery work. The tapestry was a beautiful pattern of many colors. But on the underside it was not beautiful at all; it was just a bunch of tangled threads that made no sense. Corrie would tell people that we see the underside. We see all the problems and suffering and calamities that come to us. We see no purpose for any of it. But then Corrie would point out that God sees the upper side; He sees the beautiful pattern He is making with our lives. Someday we will be able to see the pattern He has made with our lives and then we will understand many of the things that have happened to us. Corrie eventually traveled all over the world telling people about her experiences and about how Jesus sustained her through it all. She referred to herself as a "Tramp for the Lord" because of her many travels. She died on her 91st birthday in 1983.

B. M. Franklin captured the truth of Corrie's illustration in a poem:

My life is but a weaving
Between my Lord and me;
I cannot choose the colors
He weaves so steadily.

Oft times He weaveth sorrow
And I in foolish pride,
Forget that He sees the upper,
And I the underside.

Not till the loom is silent
And the shuttles cease to fly,
Shall God unroll the canvas
And explain the reason why.

The dark threads are as needful
In the Weaver's skillful hand,
As the threads of gold and silver
In the pattern He has planned.

Someday we will understand why the dark threads were as needful as the threads of gold and silver in the pattern of God's plan for our lives.

23. **Question:** During disasters, why does God allow some people to live while others die?

Answer: No one other than God knows the answer to your question. I do think disasters like the coronavirus should lead each of us to make sure we are ready to die. **There are no second chances after death.** If we die wrong the first time, we do not get to come back and die right a second time. Jim Elliott, missionary in the jungles of Ecuador, was martyred by the Auca Indians in 1956, along with his four companions. Jim wrote many notes in his Bible and journals as he studied the Word of God. He wrote: **“When it comes time to die, make sure all you got to do is die.”** He was emphasizing the importance of being ready to meet God. The way a person prepares for meeting God is to turn from sin and trust Jesus as Savior and follow Him.

24. **Question:** Is the coronavirus the worst disaster there has ever been?

Answer: We do not know the extent of the disaster at this time in history. There have been many tragedies and disasters to strike, both natural and some due to evil men.

- a. The Black Death or bubonic plague moved across Europe in the mid 1300s, killing around 25 million people.
- b. The 1918 influenza flu pandemic killed between 50 and 100 million people.
- c. The Holocaust was the World War II genocide of six million European Jews between 1941 and 1945.
- d. The Rwandan genocide lasted for around 100 days in 1994. Around 800,000 people were slaughtered.
- e. The 2004 Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunami killed over 200,000 people in countries bordering the Indian Ocean.

This is a time when we need to pray that God will help us during this virus pandemic.

25. **Question:** Did Jesus really rise from the dead?

Answer: Yes, Jesus rose from the dead. He came alive again and now is alive forever. His disciple John, then an old man, saw Him for the first time in over 60 years. Jesus told him: *“I am the Living One; I was dead, and behold I am alive for ever and ever!”* (Rev. 1:18).

26. Question: Will this earth actually pass away some day?

Answer: Yes. God’s Word says: *“I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away”* (Rev. 22:1). The Word of God says that the heaven and earth were formed by the word of God and that the earth was destroyed by water. We read: *“By the same word the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men . . . But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare”* (2 Peter 3:7, 10). The present earth and sky will be destroyed in order to be cleansed from all effects of sin, including all disease and viruses. But there is no fear for the follower of Jesus. We will not be here during this cataclysmic time. We will be with Jesus.

27. Question: The coronavirus took the entire world by surprise. Do you think it took God by surprise? And will God help us through it?

Answer: No, the coronavirus did **not** take God by surprise, and yes, He will help us through it. Nothing takes God by surprise. He knows the end from the beginning. He knows each of us, and He knows what we need. And He has promised to supply our needs. The apostle Paul wrote in God’s Word: *“And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus”* (Phil. 4:19). God does not say He will meet part of our needs. He does not say He will meet most of our needs. He says He will meet **all** our needs.

28. Question: I have my own gods I worship. Why should I become a follower of Jesus? If I followed Jesus, there would be too much I would have to give up.

Answer: Jesus is the only way to God. Jesus said: *“No one comes to the Father except through me”* (John 14:6). God’s Word says:

“Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved” (Acts 4:12). There are not many ways to heaven. There is one way. That way is through Jesus and Jesus alone.

Only Jesus can forgive your sins and give you eternal salvation. If you will turn from your sins and ask Jesus to forgive you and place your faith and trust in Him, He will come into your life and be with you forever.

Jim Elliot, martyred missionary, wrote in his Bible these words: **“He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose.”**

I urge you today to turn to Jesus. Turn from your sins and place your faith and trust in Him. Make a commitment to follow Him every day the rest of your life. Doing so, you will gain what you cannot lose.

29. Question: I do want to turn to Jesus and follow Him? Can you tell me exactly how I can do that?

Answer: Yes, I am happy to tell you how you can turn to Jesus. God loves you and me with an eternal love. But our sins have separated us from God. The Word of God says: *“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God”* (Rom. 3:23). But God still loves us. The righteous and holy God has made a way that our sins can be forgiven. That way is through Jesus Christ. The Word of God says: *“For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all men”* (1 Tim. 2:5). Jesus died on the cross for our sins. He died in our place. He rose from the dead and is alive forevermore. He has power to come into our lives and forgive our sins and give us eternal salvation.

Forgiveness of sins and eternal life is the free gift of God. We do not work for it; we receive it as a gift. To receive forgiveness and eternal life, we must turn from our sins and place our faith and trust in Jesus and receive Him into our lives as Savior and Lord.

Listen to the following prayer:

Dear God, I now turn from my sins. I am placing my faith and trust in Jesus alone to be my Savior and to forgive me. From this day forward, I will follow Jesus. Thank You, Lord Jesus, for loving me and for coming into my life. Amen.

Now, join me in praying that prayer. We will pray it a portion at a time. Make it your prayer to God. Mean it with all your heart.

Dear God, I now turn from my sins. (pause for listener to repeat)

I am placing my faith and trust in Jesus alone to be my Savior and to forgive me. (pause for listener to repeat)

From this day forward, I will follow Jesus. (pause for listener to repeat)

Thank You, Lord Jesus, for loving me and for coming into my life. (pause for listener to repeat)

Amen. (pause for listener to repeat)

Thank you for praying that prayer. When we trust Jesus Christ as our Savior and commit our lives to follow Him, we receive forgiveness of our sins and eternal life. His Spirit comes to live in us and to help us each day.

God wants us to grow as believers in Christ. One way to grow is by praying. We should talk with God each day and thank Him for His blessings. We should ask His forgiveness when we do something wrong. We should ask Him for guidance as we live each day.

We should read the Word of God each day. God's Word will help us to grow stronger in our faith. It will help us know how to live. A good way to begin each day is to read a portion of God's Word and then spend some time in prayer.

It is not always easy to follow Jesus. A believer is often persecuted for being a follower of Christ. We should not be surprised when others persecute us and give us a hard time because we follow Jesus. Jesus

said, *“If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also . . .”* (John 15:20).

Love and forgiveness should characterize our lives as believers, even in the face of persecution. Jesus said, *“Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you . . .”* (Mt. 5:44).

We do not face persecution alone. God knows about every trial we face and He is with us. God has said, *“Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you”* (Heb. 13:5). Because of His presence in our lives, we can say in words of Scripture, *“The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?”*(Heb. 13:6).

May God bless you richly as you live for Jesus each day.

(Music: Theme music swells dramatically; quickly fades into soft underscoring with host saying. (Under 10 seconds)

“If you would like more information about accepting Jesus Christ as your personal Savior, or you want to learn how to apply scriptures from the Bible to your everyday life, \ To request this material, please text or write:”

(Note to the broadcaster: provide your contact information here)

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