

## God is a Changer (July 2011)

People walk into our offices for a variety of reasons: anxiety, depression, multiple forms of addiction, marriage issues, abuse, anger, control, etc., etc., etc. When the pain gets to be unbearable, they begin to reach out for help. They usually want a quick fix for their pain, but have already tried that and it didn't work.

As clients begin to tell their stories, the "WHY?" question always raises its accusing head. "Why did God put me in that family?" "Why did I get stuck with this man/woman?" "Why did God allow me to experience that horrific childhood?" "Why did I lose my child?" Someone has to take the blame and God seems to be the candidate of choice.

Experience has taught me to say, "God does not answer the "why" questions very often. But He will gladly show you "where" He was in the midst of your painful experience. Flabbergasted, they look at me as though I just swallowed a toad, because deep down they believe the "why" answer has something to do with their lack of intrinsic value and worth.

A common thread running through their stories is an expression of how God let them down...and now they have a **right** to be angry with Him! But being angry with God is a hard thing to admit because we were taught that God is good. The incongruity of it all is Satan's underlying ploy--get them to question God's character. Their anger effectively severs any line of communication. I often ask, "Can you actually hear someone when you are livid with them and you don't believe you can trust them?" If they are willing to be honest, the answer is "NO."

We all have a choice. We can push God away and continue in our pain by harboring our resentment and bitterness, or we can set our anger aside and trust, just for the briefest moment, that He has something healing to share with us. Just maybe, the "where" answer is more important than the "why" answer. But we will never know until we are willing to take a chance and set our anger aside.

God is a changer. Hidden miracles of the heart are His specialty! He wants to light up the dark places. He would be overjoyed if you would allow Him to give you freedom in exchange for bondage. From your ash heap He will create beauty. And in the midst of the conflict in your life, calm can reign and you can experience peace.

His Truth about "where" He was during those hurting times will change the way you see things. He will show you how you were protected in that situation where you believed you were going to die. He will explain that, from His perspective, a dehumanizing situation was redeemable--and He is redeeming it today! He will tell you how His presence exposed the darkness, and the darkness had to run away. You just did not know it at the time!

I recently heard the phrase, "It is the Jesus-thing to do." The context had nothing to do with rules, but rather with attitude. Over and over, Jesus gave up his **right** to fear or anger or pride in order to listen to God-the-Father. Are you willing to set aside your anger for a moment and humbly ask the question, "Where were you?"

I promise, He will answer.

God is a changer.  
He changes darkness into Light...  
Bondage into Freedom...  
Ashes into Beauty...  
Conflict into Peace...  
He has changed death into Life.

He changed my life.  
He wants to change yours, too.  
Listen for a moment. Ann