

God Is With Us

Emmanuel...God is with us...Are we with God?

Who is God to us? Someone that we pretend is there every Sunday, Easter and Christmas? Is He someone who is cold and uncaring? Look at all the hurt and injustice in the world, if there is a God, why does He allow His children to suffer? Why does He allow starvation, senseless killing and hopelessness? If there really is a God then where is He?

**“...I am with you always...”
Matthew 28 : 20**

God is with us... but how can this be? How can a loving God exist in a world so full of hate? God lives in the silence of our hearts. His love is born into life when we allow His light to shine within us. God loves us so much that He doesn't want to control us. He wants us to be free, and in order to be free, we must have free will, the will to say yes or no to temptation, to choose love or hate, good or evil. God does not will death, He does not will pain and suffering. When we suffer, God suffers with us. When we cry, God cries beside us. When you choose yourself over another, you are choosing selfishness over love. If every person gave to others that which they do not need, no one would be poor, hungry, jobless, lost or lonely.

The feeling remains that God is on the journey, too.

Saint Teresa of Avila

Change starts with us, it starts in the stillness of our soul, where God resides. Emmanuel. God's with us always. In our hearts, our tears, our joys and sorrows. God does not abandon us, we abandon him. We fail to recognize his face in the eyes of the poor, lost and forsaken, the people in our everyday lives, our friends and family, co-workers, neighbors and our brothers and sisters whom we pass every day in the store, on the street, or hear about in the news.

Change is not just a New Year's resolution; rather change is born within the depths of our soul. Allowing God's love to shine in every aspect of our lives, to shed light into the darkest corners, to bring joy into the monotony of everyday life - this is change. When we change, the world changes with us. So you must ask yourself, am I with God? For God is with us!

**“I will be
with you...
Exodus 3:12**

God of justice,

I pray that real effective change may start in my heart,
that I may always be a beacon of love and truth.

May I become the child of hope that you have called me to be,
a shelter from the cold realities of this world.

And as You walk beside me, may I in turn walk beside You.

Amen