

## **“Where is your brother...?”**

*“It was the best of times, it was the worst of times...”*

Charles Dickens  
A Tale of Two Cities

Have you ever had the feeling that the world just stopped going forward because of something that was happening in your life? Have you ever thought, it just can't get much worse than this? It was 1990 and my family and extended family were made aware that my brother was heading to the Middle East. Many families knew members of their family would be going to the Middle East. Our military would lay the foundation for what would be Operation Desert Storm. We would be giving assistance to a nation who asked the world for help. This would not be popular with many Americans but at that time I did not care about a popularity poll. This became a part of my family and for a while, my world just seemed to stop. I knew it could get worse than this but that was a road I did not want to go down. Prayers would be said. Telephone calls would be made over and over and over again. Then the war started and prayers were said more. More telephone calls were made to support members of the family. Right when you thought it could not get any worse, right when you knew that everyone in the family was being supported, then you begin to think you can make it for the sake of everyone else. It was then that I, like you, would just about emotionally fall apart. It is then that you just want to cry out to the Lord and you know crying out to the Lord is ok, so you do cry out because you know that God hears our prayers. I know He hears our prayers because He told me,

***“Before they call I will answer;  
while they are still speaking I will hear.”*** (Isaiah 65:24 NIV)

Then prayers are answered. The emotional load is lightened. The war comes to an end and families are brought back together. But you have always listened to the reports on television and you know that the homecoming for many will not be as good as the one you have. It is then that the concern goes beyond your family. The concern goes to those you never knew, the ones you will never meet. It is those that become silent members of your extended family. You rejoice in the good news and you pray for the comfort of those who are not as fortunate. And comfort will be given for a very simple reason,

***“Before they call I will answer;  
while they are still speaking I will hear.”*** (Isaiah 65:24 NIV)

The question is asked and a good question it is. Where is your brother? Even during the times when we rejoice and it seems especially true during the times of trials and tribulations we look around and take a careful examination of ourselves and others and we realize that our “brothers” are all around us. People we know but more importantly those that we do not know. There are people that we take time to rejoice in their good news. There are those that we know are not as fortunate. Remember when someone asked you to pray for a person you did not know? They gave you a name or you asked

for their name. It is then they became your “brother”. How do I know? Because He told me,

***“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in...”***

(Matthew 25:35 NIV)

***"The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.'***

(Matthew 25:40 NIV)

Yes, we must accept the responsibility of being our brother’s keeper. Yes, we have a responsibility, as Christians, to care for the welfare of other human beings. How do I know? Because He told me,

***“This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.”***

(John 15:12 NKJV)

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