Trusting in God When Life is Hard

Greg Kline · 2 Chronicles 16:1–14

INTRODUCTION

- I do think one thing out of 2020, for better or for worse, that has happened, is that the illusion of control in our lives has hopefully forever been shattered.
- No matter how good my life is going, no matter how poorly my life is going, it is not on me. Ultimately, God is in control.

1 Asa Did Not Rely on the Lord

2 Chronicles 16:1–14; 1 Kings 15:9–14

- Because you relied on the king of Syria and did not rely on the Lord your God, the army of the king of Syria has escaped you.
- Number one, good righteous people can struggle in trusting the better righteous God.
- But number two, and this is perhaps more instructive and helpful for us. God looks at the whole picture.
- For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth to give strong support to those whose heart is blameless towards him.
- The question isn't what should I do? The question is what will my heart have already been trained to do.

2 We Don't Like to Give Up Control

Genesis 12:1–3; Hebrews 11:8

- I think number one, we don't like to give up control.
- God is not a co-pilot. He is the pilot, or he's not.
- By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called out to go to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out not knowing where he was going.
- God has told us where we're going too. He's promised that he will clear every obstacle we need, but we have to trust him and take the journey.

3 There Are Difficult Times That Come

Matthew 6:25–33

- I think the second reason we struggle to trust in the Lord is there are difficult times that come.
- Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat, or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on.
- But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.
- If you are feeling alone, if you're feeling by yourself, please know God sees you.

4 God Alone Knows What We Truly Need

1 Samuel 8:4–22

- And the truth is we just think we know what we need.
- For they have not rejected you, but they have rejected me from being king over them.
- Who do you think is going to be right? The people of Israel or God? God is right, and God is faithful 100% of the time.

5 Take Perspective of This Moment

Genesis 37:23–28; Hebrews 11:11–16

- Number one, take perspective of this moment and recognize exactly that it is just a moment.
- Because I'm the one looking at the pit. And I can't see anything else.
- These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth.
- The pit's bad, but it's not away from God for all of eternity.

6 God Alone Brings Victory and Peace

Philippians 4:4–13; Hebrews 11:32–40

- And that means recognizing that secondly, God alone brings victory and peace.
- And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.
- For I've learned in whatever situation I am to be, here's the difficult word, the tough application, content.
- God is God when my life is not going the way I want it to.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **And so the question is only, will I trust in him today?**

MY NOTES