

Learning to Trust God in Every Circumstance

August 5, 2018

Introduction: My circuitous journey; Cedar Rapids church, miscarriage, loss of house. I was inches away from quitting the ministry for good because 1) I didn't fully believe God was in control, or 2) I didn't believe he was very wise or 3) I didn't think he loved me as he ought. Then later came. . . (1988)

Jerry Bridges Trusting God

1. God is completely sovereign
2. God is infinitely wise
3. God is perfect in love.

But, it does no good to know those truths unless you know the Father personally. Here's how I learned how to swim. . . later tests did the same like collecting paper route money in sub-zero temps – He knew I was freezing several miles away from home.

1. God is completely sovereign

1 Chronicles 29:10–13

[10] Therefore David blessed the LORD in the presence of all the assembly. And David said: “Blessed are you, O LORD, the God of Israel our father, forever and ever. [11] Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, for all that is in the heavens and in the earth is yours. Yours is the kingdom, O LORD, and you are exalted as head above all. [12] Both riches and honor come from you, and you rule over all. In your hand are power and might, and in your hand it is to make great and to give strength to all. [13] And now we thank you, our God, and praise your glorious name. (ESV)

Matthew 10:29

[29] Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from the will of your Father. (ESV)

Daniel 4:35

[35] all the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, and he does according to his will among the host of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth; and none can stay his hand or say to him, “What have you done?” (ESV)

Psalms 115:3

[3] Our God is in the heavens; he does all that he pleases. (ESV)

2. God is completely sovereign even in distressful times.

Lamentations 3:37–38

[37] Who has spoken and it came to pass, unless the Lord has commanded it? Is it not from the mouth of the Most High that good and bad come? (ESV)

Isaiah 45:7

[7] I form light and create darkness; I make well-being and create calamity; I am the LORD, who does all these things. (ESV)

Amos 3:6

[6] Is a trumpet blown in a city, and the people are not afraid? Does disaster come to a city, unless the LORD has done it? (ESV)

3. God is completely sovereign even in distressful times but there is always a higher purpose behind the difficulties. . .

Lamentations 3:32–33

[32] but, though he cause grief, he will have compassion according to the abundance of his steadfast love; [33] for he does not afflict from his heart or grieve the children of men. (ESV)

Isaiah 38:17 Hezekiah knew this was true

[17] Behold, it was for my welfare that I had great bitterness; but in love you have delivered my life from the pit of destruction, for you have cast all my sins behind your back. (ESV)

Listen to Joni Eareckson Tada

we will stand amazed to see the topside of the tapestry and how God beautifully embroidered each circumstance into a pattern for our good and His glory.”

“He has chosen not to heal me, but to hold me. The more intense the pain, the closer His embrace.” — **Joni Eareckson Tada, A Place of Healing: Wrestling with the Mysteries of Suffering, Pain, and God's Sovereignty**

“Only God is capable of telling us what our rights and needs are. You have to surrender that right to Him.”

— **Joni Eareckson Tada, Joni: An Unforgettable Story**

4. That higher purpose is His glory and our good.

Romans 8:28–30

[28] And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. [29] For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be

conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. [30] And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified. (ESV)

Romans 5:2–4

[2] Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. [3] Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, [4] and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, (ESV)

Isaiah 48:9–11

[9] “For my name's sake I defer my anger; for the sake of my praise I restrain it for you, that I may not cut you off. [10] Behold, I have refined you, but not as silver; I have tried you in the furnace of affliction. [11] For my own sake, for my own sake, I do it, for how should my name be profaned? My glory I will not give to another. (ESV)

5. And that higher purpose even includes the actions of sinful men.

Proverbs 16:9

[9] The heart of man plans his way, but the LORD establishes his steps. (ESV)

Proverbs 19:21

[21] Many are the plans in the mind of a man, but it is the purpose of the LORD that will stand. (ESV)

Proverbs 21:30

[30] No wisdom, no understanding, no counsel can avail against the LORD. (ESV)