

## Topic: God Is At Work Even When Things Go Wrong

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### INTRODUCTION

When things don't turn out according to your expectations:

- When you look at your finances and realize that your savings will be totally eroded in a few months' time
- When told by the boss to look for another job and out of the company in 1 months' time
- Still sick after prayer
- Child turning rebellious
- When told by the doctor you have cancer and 6 months' to live
- When told by your spouse, he / she no longer loves you and wants out of the marriage
- When told that your flight schedule has been changed and you need to spend a night at the airport
- when you don't feel appreciated for what you've done!

### HANDLES TO COPE AND EXPERIENCE THE GOODNESS OF GOD WHEN THINGS GO WRONG

I. I need to know that I do not know everything but rest in God who knows it all.

#### 1. God is Omniscient.

*Psalm 139:1-3*

*1 O Lord, You have searched me and known me. 2 You know my sitting down and my rising up; You understand my thought afar off. 3 You comprehend my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways.*

*Hebrews 4:13*

*And there is no creature hidden from*

*His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.*

#### 2. I must recognise my finiteness and limitations

*Genesis 1:26*

*Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."*

*Romans 3:23*

*for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God ...*

**3. I must know that God loves me and cares for me.**

*Matthew 10:29-31*

*29 Are not two sparrows sold for a copper coin? And not one of them falls to the ground apart from your Father's will. 30 But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. 31 Do not fear therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.*

**II. Therefore, I will hold tightly to His Word - Promises and continually prayer-connect with Him.**

**1. I must cast my stress, anxieties and fears to the Lord.**

*1 Peter 5:7*

*casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.*

*Philippians 4:6-7*

*6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; 7 and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.*

**2. I must trust the Lord i.e. have faith in Him to know and intervene in His perfect plans for me in the situation.**

*Proverbs 3:5-6 (NIV1984)*

*5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; 6 in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.*

**3. I must stand on His Word-Promises.**

*Jeremiah 1:12*

*Then the Lord said to me, "You have seen well, for I am ready to perform My word."*

*Isaiah 55:11*

*So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.*

**A. To overcome fear.**

*Psalms 27:1*

*The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?*

**B. For protection.**

*Psalms 91:1-2 (NIV)*

*1 Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. 2 I will say of the Lord, 'He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.'*

**C. For provision.**

*Psalm 37:25*

*I have been young, and now am old; yet **I have not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his descendants begging bread***

**D. For peace.**

*Colossians 3:15*

*And let the **peace of God rule in your hearts**, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful.*

*2 Thessalonians 3:16*

*Now may the **Lord of peace Himself give you peace always in every way**. The Lord be with you all.*

**E. For His presence.**

*Hebrews 13:5-6*

*5 Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "**I will never leave you nor forsake you**." 6 So we may boldly say: "The Lord is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?"*

**F. For wisdom and favour to know what to do.**

*James 1:5*

*If any of you **lacks wisdom**, let him **ask of God**, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.*

*Psalm 5:12*

*For You, O Lord, will bless the righteous; **with favour** You will **surround him as with a shield**.*

**III. I need to recognize that I live in a fallen world.**

*John 16:33*

*These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. **In the world you will have tribulation**; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.*

**1. In God's Sovereignty, He gave man a free-will-choice.**

*John 3:16*

*For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, **that whoever believes** in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.*

*John 1:12*

*But **as many as received Him**, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name ...*

2. The world that I live in is fallen with fallen people, imperfect systems and structures that may be faulty.

3. Consequently, decisions made by others are outside my control and even that of God because of the free-will of man.

*Romans 3:23*

*For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.*

4. Consequences follow accordingly from that choice, whether good or bad.

*Galatians 6:8 – For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.*

*Romans 6:23a – For the wages of sin is death...*

**IV. The world (kosmos) lies under the power of the evil one.**

*1 John 5:19 – We know that we are of God and the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one.*

1. The evil one is against Man and seeks always to steal, kill and destroy through the fallen-ness of the world.

*John 10:10a – The thief does not come except to steal and to kill and to destroy...*

2. I, therefore, need to always be alert and vigilant.

*1 Peter 5:8 – Be sober, be vigilant because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.....HOW?*

**A. Know that I have right standing with God.**

*2 Corinthians 5:21 – For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*

*1 John 5:18 – We know that whoever is born of God does not sin; but he who has been born of God keeps himself and the wicked one does not touch-harm him.*

**B. Have a clear conscience.**

*1 Timothy 1:19 – Having faith and a good conscience which some having rejected, concerning the faith have suffered shipwreck....*

**C. Discern what is happening.**

*Hebrews 5:14 – But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.*

**D. Have a clear mind.**

1 Peter 4:7 – The end of all things is near. Therefore be clear-minded and self-controlled (serious) so that you can pray.

**E. Stay clam and composed in the Lord.**

Galatians 5:22&23 – But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such there is no law.

**F. Align with Father's will in every response and decision.**

Colossians 1:9 – For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding...

**V. After (I) to (IV) go with the FLOW!**

**1. Know that nothing happens by chance.**

**2. Seek wisdom from above to ascertain as much as possible the root causes of the happenings.**

**3. Ask the Lord for grace and favour for things to work out well.**

*Exodus 33:16 – For how then will it be known that your people and I have found grace in your sight except You go with us? So we shall be separate your people and I from all the people who are upon the face of the earth.*

**BOTTOM LINE:**

*Hebrews 4:16 – Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*

End

**QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSIONS**

1. Share your understanding and views on who is responsible when things go wrong in the life of a believer?

2. Do you blame God when things go wrong in your life? Give reasons for your answer.

3. What are the steps to help a believer to know that God is at work even when things go wrong?

4. Any lessons you have gathered from the sermon and what are some of the applications you can draw from it.