

Navigating Through Difficult Times

7.13.25

1. "God won't give you more than you can handle." 1 Meme 7:77
2. "If God brings you to it, He will lead you through it." Suburbians 3:9
3. "If God closes one door, He'll open another (or a giant window)."
Ingressions 2b
4. " 'Your wish is my command,' says the Lord." The Genie 1:1
5. "God loves you and has a wonderful plan for your life!" Happy 3:16

James 1:2 ² Consider it a great joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you experience various trials, ³ because you know that the testing of your faith produces endurance. ⁴ And let endurance have its full effect, so that you may be mature and complete, lacking nothing.

Many wonder where God was last week in the Hill Country.

Why?

--Our world is Fallen , therefore everything is fallen.

--We cannot with finite minds understand God and his plans. We will never understand the mysteries of God.

Job 38:4 Where were you when I established the earth?

Tell me, if you have ^[a] understanding., 12 Have you ever in your life commanded the morning

or assigned the dawn its place,,16 Have you traveled to the sources of the sea

or walked in the depths of the oceans?,18 Have you comprehended the extent of the earth?

Tell me, if you know all this.

Job 40: ³ Then Job answered the Lord:

⁴ I am so insignificant. How can I answer you?

I place my hand over my mouth.

⁵ I have spoken once, and I will not reply;
twice, but now I can add nothing.

--Remember God lost a child as well.

6 Things God Is Up To When We Go Through Hard Times

1. God may be directing us to alter a behavior or attitude

To non-followers of Jesus

Acts 16:34 He brought them into his house, set a meal before them, and rejoiced because he had come to believe in God with his entire household.

To followers of Jesus

Hebrews 12:6 for the Lord disciplines the one he loves and punishes every son he receives

--C.S. Lewis

God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our conscience, but shouts in our pains: it is His megaphone to rouse a deaf world.

2. God may be directing us to depend on Him more

II Cor 12:7 ⁷ especially because of the extraordinary revelations. Therefore, so that I would not exalt myself, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to torment me so that I would not exalt myself. ⁸ Concerning this, I pleaded with the Lord three times that it would leave me. ⁹ But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is perfected in weakness."

"You don't really know Jesus is all you need until Jesus is all you have."

3. God may be directing us to talk to Him more

Jonah 2:2 I called to the Lord in my distress, and he answered me.

I cried out for help from deep inside^[a] Sheol;
you heard my voice.

4. **God may be directing us seek out real answers.....(The Bible!)**

Psa 27:8 My heart says this about you:

"Seek^[a] his face."

Lord, I will seek your face.

5. **God may be directing us to a new level of maturity**

I Peter 4:12 Dear friends, don't be surprised when the fiery ordeal comes among you to test you, as if something unusual were happening to you. ¹³ Instead, rejoice as you share in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may also rejoice with great joy when his glory is revealed.

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6. **God may be directing us to a gospel opportunity**

Phil1:12-14 ¹² Now I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that what has happened to me has actually advanced the gospel, ¹³ so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard, and to everyone else, that my imprisonment is because I am in Christ. ¹⁴ Most of the brothers have gained confidence in the Lord from my imprisonment and dare even more to speak the word^[a] fearlessly.

Close:

The reality of life is that if you live long enough you are going to bleed, cry and hurt. AND God is still God IN that.

Matt Chandler

