

God, in difficult times

DIFFICULTIES TO ASSURANCE TO FAITH TO PROMISE

Difficulties

Health

Loss

Finances

Family

Disappointment

Tragedy

Pressure

Lack

Handicap

Unfairness

Employment

Status

Assurance

God's Promise.....

Then and now!

⁹ Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous! Do not be terrified nor dismayed, **for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.**

Joshua 1:9

⁵ *Make sure that* your character is free from the love of money, being content with what you have, for He Himself has said, **"I will never desert you, nor will I ever abandon you,"** Hebrews 13:5


Faith

The Triumphs of Faith

11 Now faith is *the certainty of things hoped for*, a proof of things not seen. ² For by it, the people of old gained approval.

³ By faith, we understand that the world has been created by the word of God so that what is seen has not been made out of things that are visible.

Promise



COME TO ME, ALL WHO
LABOR AND ARE HEAVY
LADEN, AND I WILL GIVE
YOU REST.

Matthew 11:28

How Difficulties Happen..

THE FOUR PATHS WE TAKE

Difficult Times

Because of ...

- * Our Humanity
- * Fallen World
- * The Enemy
- * Our God



THE WAY
AHEAD



The path we
take

OUR HUMANITY

Bad Choices

Self Interest

Foolishness

Expedient

Selfishness

Vices

Addictions

**BAD CHOICES
HURT MORE THAN JUST
YOU**

“We make this happen”



Difficult Times “The way out”

**MAKE
SMART
CHOICES IN
YOUR LIFE**

Option 1

The Righteous and the Wicked Contrasted.

¹ Blessed is the person who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, Nor stand in the path of sinners, Nor sit in the seat of scoffers!

² But his delight is in the Law of the LORD, And on His Law, he meditates day and night.

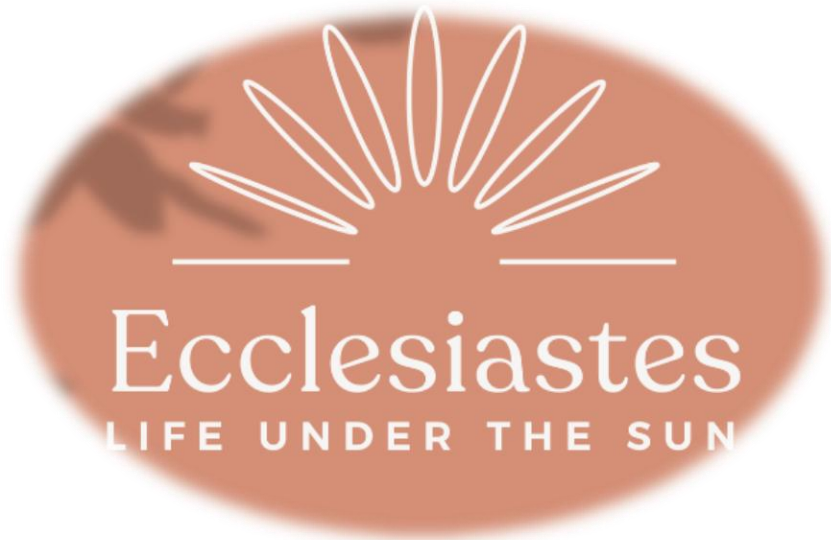
³ He will be like a tree planted by streams of water, Which yields its fruit in its season, And its leaf does not wither; **And in whatever he does, he prospers.**

Psalm 1: 1-3



The path we take

OUR HUMANITY



A FALLEN WORLD

Evil World

Power & Control

Greed & Wealth

Wars

Factions

Governments

People Groups

Wickedness

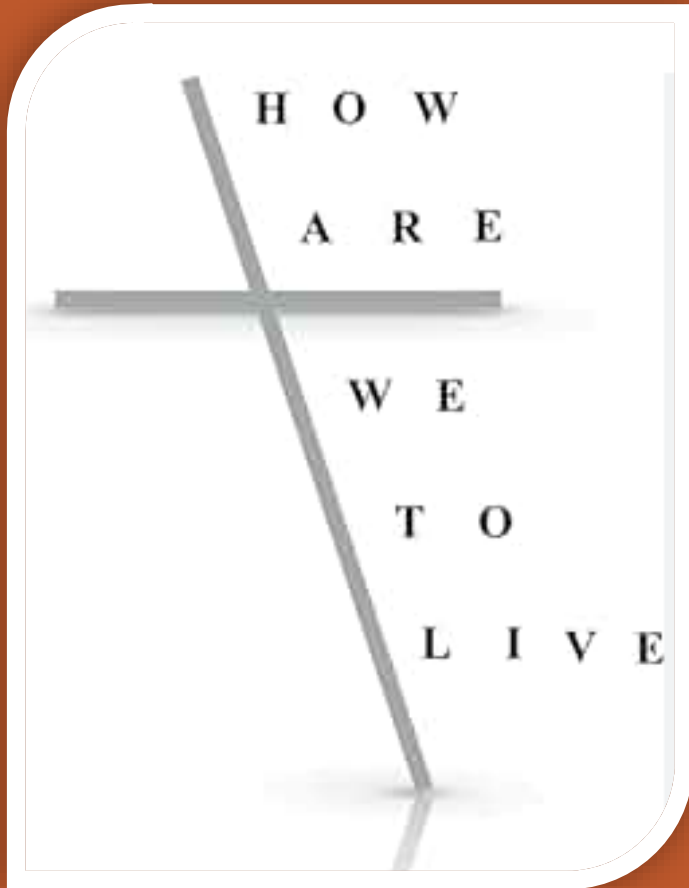
Nothing is
permanent in this
wicked world - not
even our troubles.

Charlie Chaplin

“we make this happen, also”

10%

Difficult Times “Fallen World.”



Option 2

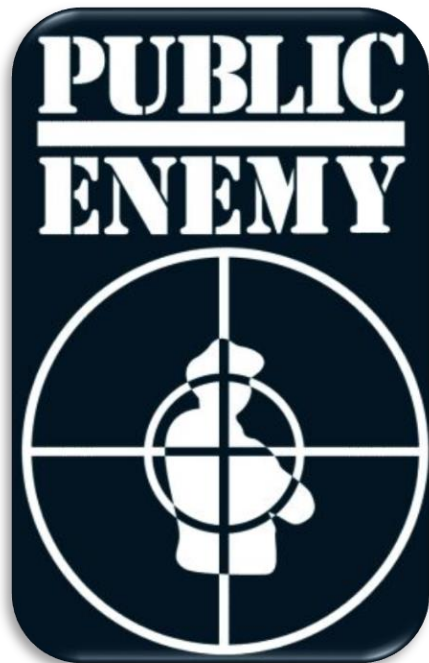
The Futility of Life

¹² For who knows what is good for a person during *his* lifetime, *during* the few ¹years of his futile life?

He will spend them like a shadow. For who can tell a person what will happen after him under the sun?

There is an evil which I have seen under the sun, and it is widespread among mankind:

Ecclesiastes 6:12



The path we take

OUR HUMANITY

FALLEN WORLD

ACTS OF THE ENEMY

Demonic

Hate

Possession

Satanic

Religion

Outs

Be alert and of sober mind.
Your enemy the devil prowls around
like a roaring lion looking for
someone to devour.

1 Peter 5:8



Something he does start

But the devil gets too much credit for this, though

Difficult Times “Dress Well”

THE ARMOR OF GOD



Option 3a

The Armor of God

¹¹ Put on the **full armour of God** so that you can stand firm against the schemes of the devil.

¹² For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the **world forces of this darkness**, against the **spiritual forces of wickedness** in the heavenly *places*.

¹³ Therefore, take up the **full armour of God**, so that you can resist on an evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm.

Ephesians 6:11-13

Difficult Times “Dress Well”

THE ARMOR OF GOD



Option 3b

The Armor of God

¹⁴ Stand firm, therefore, having **belted your waist with truth**, and having put on the **breastplate of righteousness**,

¹⁵ and having strapped on your feet the preparation of the **gospel of peace**;

¹⁶ In addition to all, take up the **shield of faith** with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil *one*.

¹⁷ And take the **helmet of salvation** and the **sword of the Spirit**, which is the word of God.

Ephesians 6:14-17



The path we take

OUR HUMANITY

FALLEN WORLD

ACTS OF THE ENEMY

LOVING HAND OF GOD

God's Hand

Correction

Preparation

Compassion

Merciful

Discipline



God does not discipline us to subdue us, but to condition us for a life of usefulness and blessedness.

— *Billy Graham* —

This is the best in difficult times

“LISTEN TO ADVICE AND
ACCEPT DISCIPLINE, AND AT
THE END YOU WILL COUNTED
AMONG THE WISE”

PROVERBS 19:20

Difficult Times “God Allows.”

Accept
correction
and you
will find life

Proverbs 10:17

A Father's Discipline.

7 It's for discipline that you endure; God deals with you as with sons; **for what son is there whom his father does not discipline?**

8 But if you are **without discipline**, of which all have become partakers, then you are **illegitimate children** and not sons.

Hebrews 12:7-8

Where is God in Difficult Times

THE FIVE PURPOSES

We cry out Why Me.....

For those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. (Romans 8:28)

Repentance

The Purpose

5Rs

Repentance

Luke 13:4-5

Stop treasuring
anything on earth
above God

⁴ Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them, do you think that they were worse sinners than all other men who dwelt in Jerusalem?

⁵ I tell you, no; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.”

The Purpose

5Rs

Repentance

Reliance

Reliance

2 Corinthians 1:8-9

Trust God and not
the stuff of the
world around us

⁸ We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about the troubles we experienced in the province of Asia. We were under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure, so that we despaired of life itself.

⁹ Indeed, we felt we had received the sentence of death. But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead.

The Purpose

5Rs

Repentance

Reliance

Righteousness

Righteousness

Hebrews 12: 6, 10-11

Sharing in His
holiness and
righteousness

⁸ For the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes each one he accepts as his child”

¹⁰ For our earthly fathers disciplined us for a few years, doing the best they knew how. But God's discipline is always good for us so that we might share in his holiness.

¹¹ No discipline is enjoyable while it is happening; it's painful! But afterwards, there will be a peaceful harvest of right living for those who are trained in this way.

The Purpose

5Rs

Repentance

Reliance

Righteousness

Reward

Reward

2 Corinthians 4:17

Greater reward in
Heaven than the
troubles on earth

⁸ For our present troubles are small and won't last very long. Yet they produce for us a glory that vastly outweighs them and will last forever!

The Purpose

5Rs

Repentance

Reliance

Righteousness

Reward

Reminder

Reminder

Philippians 3:10

God sent His Son
into the world for
our redemption

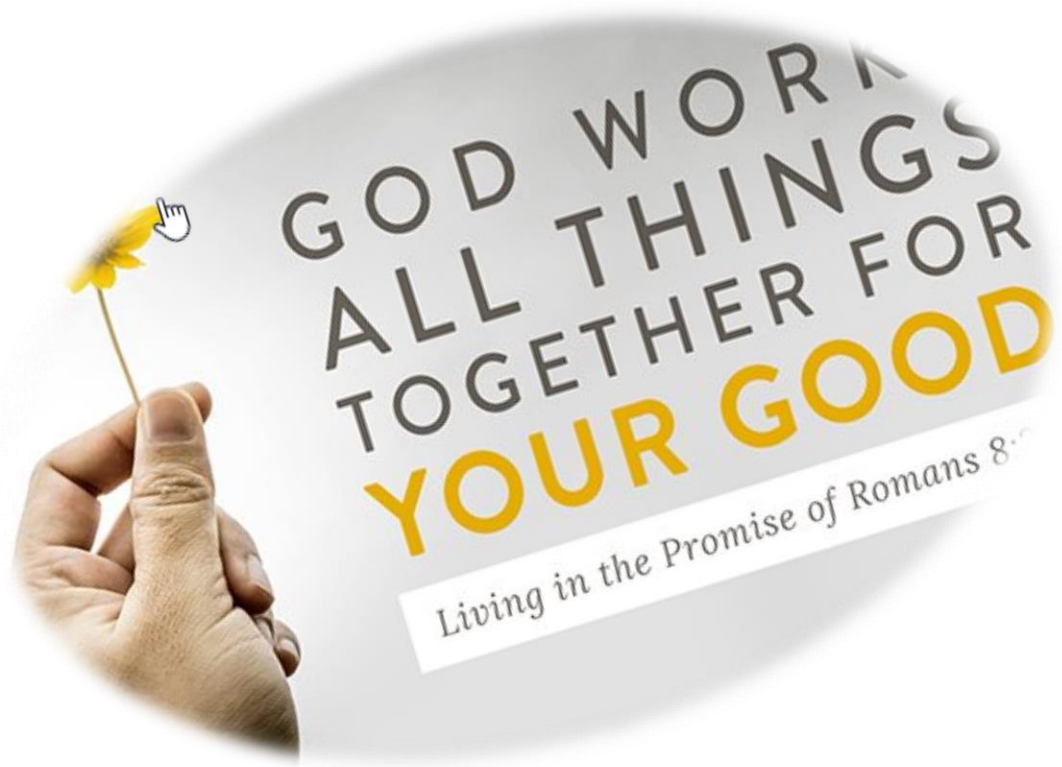
⁸ that I may know Him
and the power of
His resurrection and
the fellowship of
His sufferings,
being conformed to
His death;

God produces in ...

DIFFICULT TIMES



We walk through difficult times while waiting for Jesus to return, but none of our difficulties are random or without purpose.



Romans 8:28

²⁸ And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.

Walk by
FAITH
not by
SIGHT

2 Corinthians 5:7

Second Corinthians 5:7

It can be challenging to trust
God during uncertain times.

Faith in difficult times can
allow you to find rest in
God's presence.

God has a plan in ...

DIFFICULT TIMES

My Thoughts, Your Ways

⁸“For **My thoughts are not your thoughts,
Nor are your ways My ways,**” *declares the LORD.*

⁹“For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways And My thoughts than your thoughts.

Isaiah 55: 8-9

God promises in ...

DIFFICULT TIMES

THE NINE

SERMON ON THE MOUNT

PROMISES OF JESUS

God promises in ...

DIFFICULT TIMES

SERMON ON THE MOUNT

1 OF 3

³ “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴ “Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

⁵ “Blessed are the gentle, for they will inherit the earth.

⁶ “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied.

SERMON ON THE MOUNT

2 OF 3

⁷ “Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

⁸ “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God

⁹ “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God

¹⁰ “Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

SERMON ON THE MOUNT

3 OF 3

¹¹ **Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me.**

¹² **Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great; for in this same way, they persecuted the prophets who were before you.**

Jesus' Great Promise in ...

DIFFICULT TIMES

The Great Commission

“His Promise”

¹⁸ And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me.

¹⁹ Go, therefore, and make disciples of all the nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Hbly Spirit,

²⁰ teaching them to follow all that I commanded you; and behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Matthew 28:18-20

Where to now in ...

DIFFICULT TIMES

Finish the race in ...

DIFFICULT TIMES

Finish the Race



⁷ I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith;

2 Timothy 4:7

Crown of Righteousness



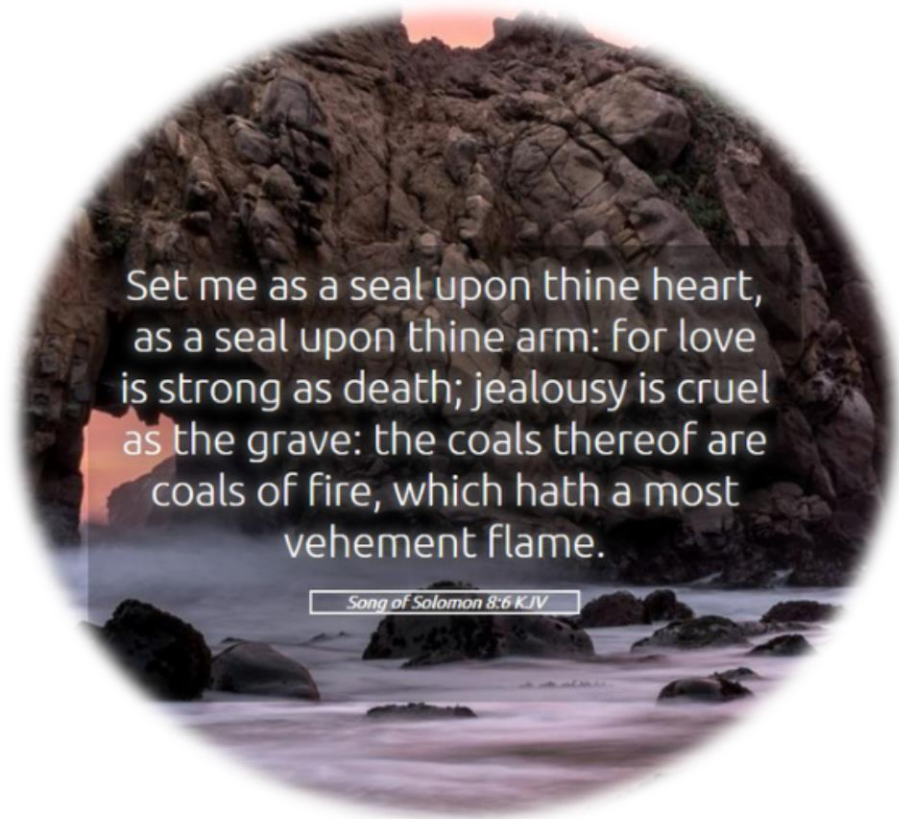
8 In the future, there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved His appearing

2 Timothy 4:8

Perfection as his Bride in ...

DIFFICULT TIMES

The Bridegroom for His Bride



The Finish Line is....

**Put me like a seal over your heart,
Like a seal on your arm
For love is as strong as death,
Jealousy is as severe as death;
Its flames are flames of fire,
The flame of the LORD.**

Song of Songs 8:6

Cry out “Come” in ...

DIFFICULT TIMES

The cry of the Bride



¹⁷ The Spirit and the Bride say, "Come." And let the one who hears say, "Come." And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without cost.

Revelations 28:17

Let's
Pray!