



9/12/25

When I was preparing for this week's Chosen and Cherished podcast, I had no idea that I would be connecting our suffering to the power of God in creation... but the Lord showed me some things through His word that connected the dots for me... especially as I look at the brokenness in this world. Our God is our hope. If you'd like to listen to this week's episode, here's the link... <https://summitpoint.org/chosen-and-cherished/>

*Blessings,
Jonna*

Genesis 1:3-13, 2 Corinthians 4:5-6

Today is a hard day... I grieve the loss of a man I never met, and yet I know that he is my brother in Christ. I grieve for his wife and kids. I grieve over a broken world that has decided to justify violence to silence those they disagree with (there is nothing new under the sun). This breaks my heart. But I won't avoid the Lord and His word right now. This is the time that I need to cling more closely to Him. Charlie Kirk was asked, "If you died today, what would you want to be remembered for?" His answer... "Above all things... I want to be remembered for courage for my faith in Jesus Christ." I have no doubt, he will be. I praise God that Charlie was welcomed into the presence of his Savior on September 10th, the moment he took his last breath on earth... and I pray that, for me, above everything else, when God takes ME home, I will be remembered for my courage of faith in Jesus Christ."

What does the Lord remind us of over and over throughout scripture when we need His comfort and strength? What is the beginning of the gospel? "In the beginning, God created." If I put God in a box and minimize His infinite power, I minimize everything about Him, and I magnify myself before Him. But as Andrew Murray prayed in his book, Absolute Surrender, I also pray, "O Lord, let there be an end of relying on my flesh and all its powers, an end of self, and let it be my glory to be helpless before You." He is our infinitely powerful, loving God. With that in mind, yes, Lord, I come to You, ready to learn what You want to teach me.

Genesis 1:3-13 ~ "And God said, 'Let there be light,' and there was light." He spoke... and it was. I can sit in a dark room that has electricity and say until I'm blue in the face, "Let the lights

that already exist in my room magically turn on," and there will be no light. The one who IS the light SPOKE... and it was... and God called it good... because God IS good and what He creates IS good. He separated the light from the darkness and called the light "day" and the darkness "night," and made evening and morning... Day 1. And thousands of years later, my God who does not change has not changed His plan of day and night. I know it's a new day as the light shines, and I know it's the end of the day as the light fades.

Day 2... God made a canopy of water and separated water from water. The water above He called "heaven." That's all He did that day. He was setting the stage in perfect order for what came next. That's what He does. I may look and wonder, "God, what are You doing? I can't see You at work!" But just because I can't see it doesn't mean that He has stopped carrying out His plan. I can never let the visible define my understanding of my invisible God. He always has a plan and His plan is always good.

Day 3 was a big day... He separated the waters UNDER the canopy of water in heaven and made space for the land. He called the land "earth" and the water He called "seas." And He said... "Yep, this is good." Hmmm... I wonder why He made land and sea... maybe to make way for what would come next? Vegetation.

I can see how He's leading up to the fulfillment of His plan... to create man in His image... but He had to prepare for how He would sustain His image bearers. They were gonna need dry land. They were gonna need water. They were gonna need food... "vegetation, plants yielding seed (for making food), fruit bearing trees whose fruit WAS the seed (for eating yummy food that nourishes the body). And God saw that it was good..." because anything a good God does IS good.

Let me not miss this... my all powerful, good, loving God whose truth can't be minimized SPOKE each day into existence in perfect order. He held it all together by the word of His power as He still does today (Hebrews 1:3).

God spoke... and it was so. Everything God speaks IS SO. Everything God does IS good. I may not always understand His plan, but His plan is always good... because a good God can only do what's good.

God speaks.

It is so.

It is good.

And this is what I know even when my natural eyes can't see the supernatural good... "But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; His mercies never come to an end; they are new EVERY MORNING; great is Your faithfulness" (Lamentations 3:21-23). And, "Why do you say... and speak..., 'My way is hidden from the Lord, and my right is disregarded by my God'? Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the EVERLASTING God, the CREATOR OF THE ENDS OF THE EARTH. He does not faint or

grow weary; His understanding is unsearchable. He GIVES power to the faint, and to him who has no might He INCREASES strength" (Isaiah 40:27-29).

Everything I need to know is that God IS good, God has the POWER to do good even when things are bad. So how do I respond to this? I look to His word for the answer...

2 Corinthians 4:5-6 ~

Vs. 5 ~ I do NOT proclaim myself. I do NOT magnify myself. I do NOT look to lift my name high. I DO magnify and proclaim JESUS CHRIST, the one who Colossians 1:16 says "created ALL things... ALL things were created THROUGH HIM and FOR HIM." I become a servant for Him, serving who He calls me to serve so that the name of Jesus will be lifted high as He deserves.

I recognize that I have the PRIVILEGE of serving Him in any way He sees fit. I praise Him that He is a GOOD God who never lets any of my suffering be wasted... who is WITH me, strengthening and encouraging me every step of the way.

Vs. 6 ~ I serve Him because this infinite God who said, "Let there be light... let light shine out of darkness," is the God who did not stop there. He is the good, wise, powerful God who stepped down from His throne and came to this earth to become the light of the world. I NEED His light because man decided to believe a lie and disobey God's one rule in the Garden of Eden, and so the DNA of sin became a curse for every person who came after Adam. So my God went to the Garden of Gethsemane where He knew that He would be sacrificed and then assassinated... in order to "shine in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ."

God spoke, "Let there be light in the hearts of all who put their faith in Jesus." And it was so. And it is good. Praise His name. O Lord, I humbly bow in absolute surrender to You. You are my infinite, good, loving, wise, powerful God for the struggles of today and for the hope of all eternity. Amen.