

Trust God to Deliver in His own Unique Way

How do we respond when things “get too hard for God”? We know better than to say something so heretical outright, but our actions often speak what our mouths won't: things we stop praying for, ceasing to update our prayer partners, not seeing God's promises as applying to us, ceasing our reading of the Word, and other actions.

We believe, at times, that our circumstances are too difficult for God to handle. God, however, doesn't always act in the way we think He will, but we can trust Him to deliver us in His own unique way in His own time.

For example, God asks Jeremiah to purchase land for the people even as the king of Babylon approaches to consume the people. It's a hopeless situation and though Jeremiah obeys, he questions God on it. In Jeremiah 32:27, God responds to Him that there is nothing too difficult for Him. Are there things too difficult for you? Are there things that bring you to the end of your knowledge, wisdom, and ability?

Exodus 14:21-22

God doesn't use cookie cutters. He doesn't deliver people over and over again in the same way. We can, however, pull out three basic ways that God delivers us.

1. He provides miraculously for His people

God acts miraculously for every believer. Your salvation is a miracle. Your transformation from hell-bound hater of God to Christ-following saint bound for heaven is absolutely outside the bounds of human effort.

For the people of Israel, they walked 19 miles between two massive walls of water through the Red Sea. The deliverance of the people of Israel became the graveyard for their enemies.

We must trust God to deliver us in His own time, in His own unique way.

Even before this great miracle, they had seen the 10 plagues, through which their enemies were punished while they passed through safely.

Before we think that God doesn't work for us, we must know that God is not stingy with His miracles and works for us even today. Prayers over health concerns, finances, needs, etc. are answered day after day across the world - some immediately and some slowly over time.

Know, however, that miracles don't solve everything. If you know the rest of the Exodus story, you know that the people of Israel have a long way to go before they come to the promised land. They encounter countless trials along the way: temptation to idolatry, traveling through a wasteland, dehydration, starvation, and more.

Getting that job or earning that promotion or seeing that person come to Christ suddenly brings about an end to struggle and difficulty. There's work, change, discipleship, and a thousand hardships that life has in store. God delivers time and time again, never all at once, so that we will not forget who it is that is working for us.

Before we begin looking for miracles around every corner, we must know that God's

purposes and will are mostly accomplished through unremarkable, ordinary events. God prefers to work through routine, customary events in our life, not world-changing, extraordinary situations.

For example, let's look back at Moses's early life. In Exodus 3, Moses is working his day-to-day job of shepherding a flock of sheep. Deep in the wilderness, Moses finds a desert shrub that's on fire. This isn't a paranormal experience for a dry shrub to catch fire. Moses literally turned aside to see it because he was curious that the thing was still burning. It's only when he gets close that God reveals Himself and addresses Moses. God is going to work in your daily conversations, relationships, jobs, and other mundane tasks. Simple daily bible reading. Simple daily prayer.

Take the book of Esther. God placed an ordinary person in the right place and the right time with the right relationship to bring about the greatest good. It's only after the fact that they look back and see God's hand and glorify Him. The entire time, they were totally unaware of God's work, but in the end, they could not deny His powerful love, faithfulness, and power poured out for them through the ordinary.

Ephesians 3:20 tells us that God is able to do far more than we can ask or think. God's providence, His supernatural background workings, is so far beyond our limited understanding that the greatest works could bring about the smallest benefits and the smallest works could bring about earth-shaking goodness.

All too often, we feel all alone in the midst of our struggles and suffering. When we encounter financial, relational, and other issues, our prayers are for immediate relief. God, however, often delivers us through the suffering, such that when we look back, we cannot help but glorify Him for the ordinary, daily graces that He was extending to us day after day through it.

When Jesus was dying on the cross, all His followers wept and feared and fretted. No one understood or could foresee what God had in store.

We must trust God to deliver His way and stop trying to program it for Him.

In Habakkuk, the prophet sees evil everywhere he turns: the government, the religious establishment, commerce, the people. He asks God why He allowed this happen, and God responds that He will punish their evil but not in the way Habakkuk hopes. Habakkuk wanted the evil to be punished and wiped away, but God reveals that He is sending the king of Babylon to destroy their cities and the people into exile. Later, He will send judgment on the Babylonians but things must get worse before they get better.

Habakkuk 3:16-19 describes his response: he is afraid and sick, he reflects on the pain and suffering to come, yet he praises God because he trusts Him to do what is right. Sometimes, God delivers miraculously, sometimes providentially (through the day to day), and other times mysteriously such as in Habakkuk's time.

Have you given up on God's deliverance? Are you hopeless and prayerless? Don't overlook what God is doing day by day, don't despise His mundane faithfulness.

Let's end by reading a few Scriptures:

Psalms 34:19
2 Peter 2:9
Galatians 1:4
Psalm 50:15
2 Timothy 4:18

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