

All Things Work Together for Good

Acceptance of God's _____ and _____ must come before understanding. We must deliberately set aside our own desire for knowledge and comprehension of what God is doing, and throw the weight of our will into a decision to trust His Word. His plan for us is good.

Yet Job trusted God. "Though He slay me, yet will I trust in Him" (Job 13:15).

God had a perfect plan for Job. _____.

God had a perfect plan for Ruth, the Moabite. _____.

God had a perfect plan for Joseph. (Gen.45:5, 8; 50:20).

_____.

God meant it for good! We often will admit that God is able to make all things work out to good for us, the way the Bible says, but we sometimes think that God takes whatever happens to us and makes the best of it, sort of a secondhand blessing. But God isn't limited to making the best out of a bad situation. *God has the _____!*

God had the _____ when Stephen was stoned to death (Acts 7).

God had the _____ when Paul and Silas beaten and imprisoned in Philippi. (Acts 16).

Paul suffered many afflictions. He was stoned and left for dead, shipwrecked, bitten by a snake, suffered disease and persecution ... but never did he think that God had stopped directing every incident of his life. He counted it all for joy and an opportunity to praise God. Paul knew that his suffering was working _____ him.

We may speculate, *"Why doesn't God do something about your pain? You're praying for others who get healed, but your own pain is still with you."* But of course, they are a bunch of lies, invented by the master deceiver, Satan himself, who comes near only by permission of God. Our accuser and tormentor must flee when we draw near to God and take our stand on His Word of truth.

"As for God, His way is perfect," said the psalmist: "the word of the Lord is tried: He is a buckler to all those that trust in Him" (Psa.18:30).

The way may lead through fierce battles, through raging storms, or fire or flood; yet everywhere, God's _____ goes with us, and His _____ guides us, says the Bible.

How can we doubt it? All things are under His _____.

Why did God cause a storm on the lake when Jesus was there in a boat with His disciples? (Mark 4)

_____.

The disciples looked at the blind man from the viewpoint of human reasoning and understanding; (John 9:2-3). Jesus saw the situation under the _____ and _____ of God. Our viewpoint makes all the difference.

Praise releases the _____ of God into our lives and circumstances, because praise is _____ in action. When we trust God fully, He is free to work, and He *always* brings victory. It may be a victory that changes circumstances, or a victory *in* the circumstances. Death may be turned away, or made to lose its sting.

Praise is a _____ of what God has brought into our lives. We enter this attitude of praise by an act of our will, by a decision to praise God regardless of how we feel.

PRAYER POINT: Ask God to help you see a different viewpoint through the eyes of faith in the midst of your trials and adversity.

APPEAL: I will put complete trust in God's will and praise Him regardless of what I go through or how I feel, knowing that it's part of God's perfect plan for my life.