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## Women 4 Truth

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## My God Would Never...

I. He WOULD, He COULD, He MIGHT...but then again, He MIGHT NOT...

### He would

*God is sovereign. Anything that happens, He either causes or allows, both blessings (about which we hear a lot) and “bad things.” Here are a few examples of the so-called “bad things.”*

God to Satan - Have you considered my servant, Job? Job 1:8-12

<sup>8</sup>And the LORD said to Satan, “Have you <sup>(N)</sup>considered my <sup>(O)</sup>servant Job?... <sup>12</sup>And the LORD said to Satan, “Behold, all that he has is in your hand. Only against him do not stretch out your hand.” So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD.

God to Moses: Who made the deaf and the dumb? Gen. 4:10-12

<sup>0</sup> Moses said to the LORD, “O Lord, I have never been eloquent, neither in the past nor since you have spoken to your servant. I am slow of speech and tongue.” <sup>11</sup> The LORD said to him, “**Who gave man his mouth? Who makes him deaf or mute? Who gives him sight or makes him blind? Is it not I, the LORD?**” <sup>12</sup> Now go; I will help you speak and will teach you what to say.”

Paul’s thorn in the flesh II Cor. 12:7-9

*’ To keep me from becoming conceited because of these surpassingly great revelations, there was given me a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me.* <sup>8</sup>Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. <sup>9</sup>But He said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.”

He could God is omnipotent.

Jeremiah 32:17Ah, Sovereign LORD, you have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and outstretched arm. Nothing is too hard for you.

Isaiah 40:28-31 <sup>28</sup> **Do you not know?**

**Have you not heard?**

**The LORD is the everlasting God,**

*the Creator of the ends of the earth.  
He will not grow tired or weary,  
and his understanding no one can fathom.*

Psalm 147:5 <sup>5</sup> *Great is our Lord and mighty in power;  
his understanding has no limit.*

**He might...but then again, He might not**

*His ways are not our ways. We can't predict or control Him. (That would be pagan.)*

Isaiah 55:8-9 <sup>8</sup> *"For my thoughts are not your thoughts,  
neither are your ways my ways,"  
declares the LORD. <sup>9</sup> "As the heavens are higher than the earth,  
so are my ways higher than your ways  
and my thoughts than your thoughts.*

Romans 11:33-34 <sup>33</sup> **Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! *How unsearchable his judgments,  
and his paths beyond tracing out!***  
<sup>34</sup> **"Who has known the mind of the Lord?  
Or who has been his counselor?"<sup>[b]</sup>**

Psalm 115 <sup>1</sup> Not to us, O LORD, not to us  
but to your name be the glory,  
because of your love and faithfulness.

<sup>2</sup> Why do the nations say,  
"Where is their God?"

<sup>3</sup> *Our God is in heaven;  
he does whatever pleases him.*

## II. But, don't worry! He LOVES you (Jn. 3:16) and has a PLAN which is GOOD (which you might be able to see)

*-Through the eyes of Scripture  
-In the rearview mirror  
-Through a “glass darkly”*

### -Through the eyes of Scripture

And we **know** that in **all things God** works for the **good** of **those who love Him**, who have been **called** according to **His purpose.**” Rom. 8:28

#### **Purposes of suffering**

1. For His eternal purposes (II Cor. 4:17)
2. To bring me to a greater dependency upon Christ so I will know Him more intimately (II Cor. 12:9-10; Phil 3:10)
3. To teach me, experientially, that God's grace and love will sustain, uphold and enfold me in the midst of the trial (Is. 4:10)
4. To conform me to the image of Christ (Rom. 8:28-29)
5. To build my character (Rom 5:3,4)
6. So I can comfort others with the comfort I have received from God (II Cor. 1:3-7)
7. To enable me to learn God's Word (Ps. 119:71)
8. To produce more fruit in my life (John 15:2)
9. To display the glory of God through me (John 9:3)
10. To enable me to realize that inner and eternal blessings, and sometimes, outward blessings, are the result of trials (Matt. 5:1-12, James 1:12)
11. To allow God's power to be displayed through my weakness, to help me understand His sufficiency for me and to keep me from sin(II Cor. 12:7-10)
12. To discipline me, Proverbs 3:11-12
13. To bring glory to God. John 9
14. To spread the gospel. Phil. 1:12-14
15. To produce perseverance, character and hope. Romans 5:3-5

\*Several items in the list above are partially adapted from “Who's In Charge?” Called to Obedience Ministries. Howie and Dennie Dowell

### -In the rear view mirror

Genesis 50:20 “You meant it for evil, but God intended it for good.”

### -Through a “glass darkly”

For now we see through a glass, darkly, but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.

### III. And you can TRUST Him.

Prov. 3:5-6 Trust in the LORD with all your heart, lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him; he will make your paths straight.

Remember God is sovereign and good, He holds us in His hand, and one day He will set all things right.

Remember...-Like these people didn't, then did

**Psalm 73 – (From bitterness to praise)** A psalm of Asaph.

<sup>1</sup> Surely **God is good** to Israel, to those who are pure in heart.

<sup>2</sup> **But as for me, my feet had almost slipped;** I had nearly lost my foothold.

<sup>3</sup> **For I envied the arrogant when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.**

<sup>4</sup> They have no struggles; their bodies are healthy and strong.

<sup>5</sup> They are free from burdens common to man; and not plagued by human ills.

<sup>6</sup> Therefore pride is their necklace; they clothe themselves with violence.

<sup>7</sup> From their callous hearts comes iniquity; the evil conceits of their minds know no limits.

<sup>8</sup> They scoff, and speak with malice; in their arrogance they threaten oppression.

<sup>9</sup> Their mouths lay claim to heaven; their tongues take possession of the earth.

<sup>10</sup> Therefore their people turn to them and drink up waters in abundance.

<sup>11</sup> They say, "How can God know? Does the Most High have knowledge?"

<sup>12</sup> This is what the wicked are like - always carefree, they increase in wealth.

<sup>13</sup> **Surely in vain have I kept my heart pure;**

in vain have I washed my hands in innocence.<sup>14</sup> All day long I have been plagued; I have been punished every morning.

<sup>15</sup> **If I had said, "I will speak thus," I would have betrayed your children.**

<sup>16</sup> **When I tried to understand all this, it was oppressive to me**

<sup>17</sup> **till I entered the sanctuary of God; then I understood their final destiny.**

<sup>18</sup> Surely you place them on slippery ground; you cast them down to ruin.

<sup>19</sup> How suddenly are they destroyed, completely swept away by terrors!

<sup>20</sup> As a dream when one awakes, so when you arise, O Lord, you will despise them as fantasies.

<sup>21</sup> **When my heart was grieved and my spirit embittered,**

<sup>22</sup> **I was senseless and ignorant; I was a brute beast before you.**

<sup>23</sup> **Yet I am always with you; you hold me by my right hand.**

<sup>24</sup> **You guide me with your counsel, and afterward you will take me into glory.**

<sup>25</sup> **Whom have I in heaven but you? And earth has nothing I desire besides you.**

<sup>26</sup> **My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.**

**27 Those who are far from you will perish; you destroy all who are unfaithful to you.**

**28 But as for me, it is good to be near God.  
I have made the Sovereign LORD my refuge; I will tell of all your deeds.**

The psalmist envies the wicked, pities himself, questions God, almost “slips,” and stops being useful. He returns to the “sanctuary,” is reminded of God’s character and deeds, the wicked’s future (destruction), his own (Heaven), is grateful and becomes useful again, telling of all God’s deeds. **In suffering, God reminds us of His character and our destiny. when we focus on Him and not on circumstances He equips us to live for him. It’s important to keep going to church in times of trouble or we can get off track.**

*1 Kings 19 – Elijah*

*When he finds out that evil queen Jezebel has pledged to kill him, he asks God to take his life. Instead, **God gives him food, rest, a vision of Himself and a helper, Elisha. In suffering, God provides. Then we can do the work He has for us.***

*Job 38-42*

*Beset by suffering, Job questions God. He does not sin by charging God with wrongdoing. God shows Job Himself (his character, order, goodness, sovereignty and power.) Job says, “I know that you can do all things. No plan of yours can be thwarted. Also, “I had heard of you, but now I see you and repent in dust and ashes.” **In suffering, God reveals Himself. We come to know him experientially. which results in humility and worship.***

*John the Baptist Matthew 11:1-15*

*Stuck in prison, John sends word to Jesus, asking if He is the promised one or if he should look for another. Jesus says to tell John of His deeds (the lame walk, the blind see.) **In suffering, we should go directly to the Lord for answers. God graciously reminds us of all He has done and is doing.***

*Paul and His “Thorn in the Flesh” II Cor. 12:7-10*

*To keep Paul from being conceited, he is given a difficult circumstance, a “thorn in the flesh.” He pleads with God to remove it. God’s response is, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is perfected in weakness.” Paul responds, “Therefore I will glory in my weakness so God’s power may rest on me.” **In suffering, God gives us all-sufficient grace. Our response should be gratitude.***

-And these people did all along.

Joseph Genesis 50:20

Joseph is separated from his family when his jealous brothers sell him into slavery in Egypt. He is imprisoned there after being falsely accused. He remains faithful, and eventually rises to a position of honor and power, allowing him to save many lives from famine with his wise planning. Upon meeting his brothers again, he eventually says to them, “You intended to harm me, but God meant it for good.” ***In suffering, we come to realize that God’s ways are not our ways, but His plans for us are good, and also better than the plans we have for ourselves. His purposes are accomplished through us. We need to remain faithful.***

Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego Daniel 3:17-18

After refusing to bow down and worship an idol, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego are informed they will be thrown into a fiery furnace. Their response? “If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to save us from it, and he will rescue us from your hand, O king. <sup>18</sup> But even if he does not, we want you to know, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up.” ***God may not alleviate our suffering, but He will enable us to remain faithful.***

## Suffering Quotations

Below are some quotations on suffering for you to consider. Since they are written by fallible people and are not inerrant as Scripture is, I encourage you to hold them up to the light of Scripture. Having said that, I hope that you also find encouragement here by examining the words of believers who have pondered the topic of suffering and/or lived it out.

*There is nothing--no circumstance, no trouble, no testing--that can ever touch me until, first of all, it has gone past God and past Christ right through to me. If it has come that far, it has come with a great purpose, which I may not understand at the moment. But as I refuse to become panicky, as I lift up my eyes to Him and accept it as coming from the throne of God for some great purpose of blessing to my own heart, no sorrow will ever disturb me, no circumstance will cause me to fret, for I shall rest in the joy of what my Lord is--that is the rest of victory! --Alan Redpath, former pastor of [Moody Church](#)*

*Where are the marks of the cross in your life? Are there any points of identification with your Lord? Alas, too many Christians wear medals but carry no scars. Vance Havner*

*Only if we trust God to turn past calamities into future comfort can we look with gratitude for all things. John Piper Future Grace (Multnomah: 2005)*

*This is God's universal purpose for all Christian suffering: more contentment in God and less satisfaction in the world. John Piper*

*"Wimpy theology does not give a woman a God big enough, strong enough, wise enough, or good enough to handle the realities of life in a way that enables her to magnify Him and His Son all the time." John Piper*

*The first mark of a true and living church is love, the second is suffering. The one is naturally consequent on the other. A willingness to suffer proves the genuineness of love. John Stott*

*Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God. — [Corrie Ten Boom](#)*

*God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks to us in our conscience, but shouts to us in our pain. It is His megaphone to rouse a deaf world. C. S. Lewis*

*God does not comfort us to make us comfortable only, but to make us comforters. Dr. John Henry Jowett*

*He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose.  
Jim Elliot*

*God never withholds from His child that which His love and wisdom call “good.”  
God’s refusals are always merciful- “severe mercies” at times but mercies all the  
same. God never denies us our heart’s desire except to give us something  
better. — [Elisabeth Elliot](#)*

*God is God. I dethrone Him in my heart if I demand that He act in ways that  
satisfy my idea of justice. It is the same spirit that taunted, “If Thou be the Son of  
God, come down from the Cross.” There is unbelief, there is even rebellion, in the  
attitude that says, “God has no right to do this to five men unless...”  
— [Elisabeth Elliot \(Through Gates of Splendor\)](#)*

*You may never know that JESUS is all you need, until JESUS is all you have. --  
Corrie Ten Boom*

*O how I pray that when God, in His mercy, beings to blow out my lamps, that I  
will not curse the wind. John Piper A Godward Life*

*God uses pain to direct us, correct us, inspect us, perfect us, and protect us.  
Rick Warren*

*No pressure is greater than God’s power.” - Charles Swindoll*

***“In this world you will have tribulation, but be of good cheer, for I have  
overcome the world.” Jesus***

*Book List*

*The Power of Suffering: Strengthening Your Faith in the Refiner's Fire,*  
John MacArthur

*Suffering and the Sovereignty of God,* John Piper and Justin Taylor,  
Editors

*The Sovereignty of God,* A.W. Pink

*A Path Through Suffering, Discovering the Relationship Between  
God's Mercy and Our Pain,* Elisabeth Elliot

*Through Gates of Splendor,* Elisabeth Elliot

*Joy at the End of the Tether: The Inscrutable Wisdom of Ecclesiastes,*  
Douglas Wilson

Above are some books relating to suffering for you to consider. Since they are written by fallible people and are not inerrant as Scripture is, I encourage you to hold them up to the light of Scripture. . Having said that, I hope that you also find encouragement here by examining the words of believers who have pondered the topic of suffering and/or lived it out.

## A Few More Encouraging Verses

<sup>18</sup>I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. Romans 8:18

<sup>26</sup>In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express Romans 8:26

<sup>31</sup>What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us? Romans 8:31

<sup>37</sup>No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. <sup>38</sup>For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, <sup>[m]</sup> neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, <sup>39</sup>neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 8:37-39

<sup>7</sup>But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. <sup>8</sup>We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; <sup>9</sup>persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. II Corinthians 4:7-8

<sup>16</sup>Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. <sup>17</sup>For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. <sup>18</sup>So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal. II Cor. 4:16-18