

God's Designs for Disruptions – Part 2

Big Idea – Things don't just "happen" - God always has a plan and a purpose.

1. Purifying and cleansing.

Ps 119:67 Before I was afflicted I went astray, But now I keep Your word.

71 It is good for me that I have been afflicted, That I may learn Your statutes.

Ps 51:7 Purify me from my sins, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.

How do I know what sins I need cleansed from? Pray & ask Him to show you.

Ps 139:23 Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxieties.

24 Point out anything in me that offends you, and lead me along the path of everlasting life.

Try these out for size:

Unforgiveness

Bitter spirit

Animosity towards a Christian friend, or family member

Animosity towards other races

Unbelief

Last week in the comments section folks posted:

2. Closer companionship and fellowship.

Psalm 57:1 "...my soul trusts in You; And in the shadow of Your wings I will make my refuge, until these calamities have passed by."

Psalm 55:17 "Evening and morning and at noon I will pray, and cry aloud, And He shall hear my voice."

Psalm 19:7-11 – gives all the benefits of God's Word

A Daily Quiet Time with God is Priceless

His Word speaks peace to your heart. – Isaiah 26:3 "You will keep Him in perfect peace whose mind is focused on you because he trusts in You."

3. Transformation to make us like Jesus Christ.

Romans 8:29 For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.

Romans 12:2 "...do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."

NLT2 Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

God wants us daily to be more and more like Jesus Christ.

Sadly, many “former” believers in Jesus Christ are denying their Lord, are giving up their faith in God, in His Word, and in His truths. Former missionaries, pastors, celebrity worship leaders, CCM artists, and others are dropping like dead flies! Why?

Jesus in parable of sower (Matthew 13) said it could be troubles or persecution or the cares of this world, or even the deceitfulness of riches that chokes the seed of God’s Word.

Did they lose their salvation? No, **you can’t.** If you could, it would not be eternal life!

Matthew 7:21-23 “Many will say Lord, Lord....and then I will say unto them, I **never knew** you!

So what’s the antidote? the answer?

Make sure your faith is your own,

Make sure it’s real.

Make sure it’s personal.

Answer this question: Is my faith personal?

4. Comfort so I can help others.

2 Corinthians 1:4 “He comforts us every time we have trouble, so when others have trouble, we can comfort them with the same comfort God gives us.”

Psalms 143:11 LORD, let me live so people will praise you. In your goodness save me from my troubles.

Is there someone you know who needs your encouragement?

Take these Words to them:

Romans 8:35 Can anything ever separate us from Christ’s love? Does it mean he no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity, or are persecuted, or hungry, or destitute, or in danger, or threatened with death?

37 No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us.

38 And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God’s love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God’s love.

39 No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.

5. Deepen our convictions and strengthen our faith in Him.

2 Corinthians 12:9 Each time he said, "My grace is all you need. My power works best in weakness." So now I am glad to boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ can work through me.

10 That's why I take pleasure in my weaknesses, and in the insults, hardships, persecutions, and troubles that I suffer for Christ. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

God makes His strength perfect for us in our weakness!

1Thessalonians 3:7 So we have been greatly encouraged in all our troubles and suffering, dear brothers and sisters, because you have remained strong in your faith.

Philippians 4:13 I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength.

6. Promote obedience through change.

Acts 8:1; 9:1-9, 15

God struck down Saul of Tarsus, a zealous, religious killer of his day.

The Isis Jihadi, the Islamic terrorist, the Jewish zealot killing followers of the Way, and turned him into the Apostle Paul, a missionary, preacher, author of many books of the Bible, the Jesus book!

Psalms 71:20 You have given me many troubles and bad times, but you will give me life again. When I am almost dead, you will keep me alive.

Psalms 138:7 Though I am surrounded by troubles, you will protect me from the anger of my enemies. You reach out your hand, and the power of your right hand saves me.

Psalms 25:17 The troubles of my heart have enlarged; Bring me out of my distresses!

Psalms 42:7 Troubles have come again and again, sounding like waterfalls. Your waves are crashing all around me.

Psalms 88:3 My life is full of troubles, and I am nearly dead.

Psalms 90:15 We have seen years of trouble. Now give us as much joy as you gave us sorrow.

Psalms 142:2 I pour out my problems to him; I tell him my troubles.

Psalms 145:14 The LORD helps those who have been defeated and takes care of those who are in trouble.

Psalm 146:8 The LORD gives sight to the blind. The LORD lifts up people who are in trouble. The LORD loves those who do right.

Isaiah 48:10 I have made you pure, but not by fire, as silver is made pure. I have purified you by giving you troubles.

Romans 12:12 Be joyful because you have hope. Be patient when trouble comes, and pray at all times.

2Timothy 3:1 Remember this! In the last days there will be many troubles,

2Timothy 4:5 But you should control yourself at all times, accept troubles, do the work of telling the Good News, and complete all the duties of a servant of God.

James 1:2, 3 My brothers and sisters, when you have many kinds of troubles, you should be full of joy, because you know that these troubles test your faith, and this will give you patience.

Jeremiah 16:19 LORD, you are my strength and my protection, my safe place in times of trouble. The nations will come to you from all over the world and say, "Our ancestors had only false gods, useless idols that didn't help them.