

## WHEN LIFE DOESN'T MAKE SENSE

### Difference Makers – Part 2

*“8 We are pressed on every side by troubles, but we are not crushed. We are perplexed, but not driven to despair. 9 We are hunted down, but never abandoned by God. We get knocked down, but we are not destroyed.” 2 Corinthians 4:8-9*

**KEY TRUTH #1:** The mystery of how God works is beyond my **COMPREHENSION**.

*“Just as you cannot understand the path of the wind or the mystery of a tiny baby growing in its mother’s womb, so you cannot understand the activity of God, who does all things.” Ecclesiastes 11:5*

**KEY TRUTH #2:** In his loving grace, God works out his supreme purpose **WITHIN** and **IN SPITE OF** our corrupt human nature

### WHEN MY LIFE DOESN'T MAKE SENSE, I WILL . . .

#### 1. Remember God’s **PROMISES**

*“I will give you more descendants than you can count.” Genesis 16:10*

*“We are pressed on every side by troubles, but we are not crushed...” 2 Corinthians 4:8a*

*“And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.” Romans 8:28*

*“Don’t be afraid, for I am with you; don’t be discouraged, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and I will help you. I will hold you up with my victorious right hand.” Isaiah 41:10*

*“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.” Hebrews 13:8*

#### 2. Rely on God’s **PLAN**

*“The angel of the Lord said to her, ‘Return to your mistress, and submit to her authority.’” Genesis 16:9*

*“There is a path before each person that seems right, but it ends in death.” Proverbs 14:12*

**KEY OBSERVATION #1:** Our ways seem to make sense but will just create more **TROUBLE**.

*“...we are perplexed, but not driven to despair.” 2 Corinthians 4:8b*

**KEY TRUTH #3:** God’s way may not make sense in the moment, but his plans are **GOOD** and full of **HOPE**

*“‘For I know the plans I have for you,’ says the Lord. ‘They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.’” Jeremiah 29:11*

**KEY OBSERVATION #2:** Hagar didn’t have an explanation; all she had was a **DIRECTIVE**.

- **THE KEY IN HAGAR’S LIFE** – she **ACTED** on that directive.

*“But don’t just listen to God’s word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves.” James 1:22*

*“5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. 6 Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.” Proverbs 3:5-6*

#### 3. Recognize God’s **PROVISION**

*“Then God opened Hagar’s eyes, and she saw a well full of water. She quickly filled her water container and gave the boy a drink.” Genesis 21:19*

**KEY OBSERVATION #3:** God’s provision is **EXACTLY** what we need when we need it.

*“We are hunted down, but never abandoned by God.” 2 Corinthians 4:9a*

*“And this same God who takes care of me will supply all your needs from his glorious riches, which have been given to us in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4:19*

#### **4. Rest in God’s PRESENCE**

*“Thereafter, Hagar used another name to refer to the Lord, who had spoken to her. She said, ‘You are the God who sees me...’” Genesis 16:13*

*“We get knocked down, but we are not destroyed.” 2 Corinthians 4:9b*

*“I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing.” John 15:5*

#### **In God’s presence I find . . .**

- **PEACE** in the midst of the chaos
- **PERSPECTIVE** that overshadows the questions
- **POWER** to overcome the pressures, expectations, and responsibilities

**BOTTOM LINE:** Just because it doesn’t make sense doesn’t mean it’s **SENSELESS**.