

## TRUSTING GOD Stressed - Part 3

**ON TV:** We are as happy as we **choose** to be.

**ON TV/OUTLINE:** #1 Change is **UNAVOIDABLE**.

**ON TV/OUTLINE:** “As long as the earth remains, there will be springtime and harvest, cold and heat, winter and summer, day and night.” Genesis 8:22

**ON TV:** There is no growth without **change**. There is no change without **loss**. There is no loss without **grief**. There is no grief without **pain**.

**ON TV/OUTLINE:** #2 Change is not always good, but God **USES** it for good.

**ON TV/OUTLINE:** “We know that in **all** things God works **for the good** of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.” Romans 8:28

**ON TV: Attitude**

**ON TV/OUTLINE:** #3 God’s purpose in every circumstance that involves change is to make us **MORE LIKE JESUS**.

**ON TV/OUTLINE:** “28 We know that God causes **everything** to work together for the good of those who love him and are called to his purpose for them. 29 For God knew in advance, who would come to him, and he chose them **to become like his son**. So that his son Jesus would be the firstborn in his family with many brothers and sisters.” Romans 8:28-29

**ON TV:** He wants us to **grow up**.

**ON TV/OUTLINE:** “22...the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness and self-control...” Galatians 5:22-23a

**ON TV:** By putting us in the **exact opposite situation** where we get a chance to learn and practice that character quality.

**ON TV/OUTLINE:** “...**Endurance builds character** and character produces **hope**.” Romans 5:4

**ON TV/OUTLINE:** #4 God can use even our **MISTAKES AND SIN**.

**ON TV/OUTLINE:** “You intended to harm me, **but God** intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.” Genesis 50:20

**ON TV/OUTLINE:** #5 Every change is always a **TEST** of our faith.

**ON TV/OUTLINE:** “The purpose of these troubles is to **test your faith** as fire tests how genuine gold is. Your faith is more precious than gold, and by passing the test, it gives praise, glory, and honor to God.” 1 Peter 1:7

**ON TV:** “Without faith it is **impossible** to please God, because anyone who comes to him **must believe** that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly **seek him**.”

**ON TV:**

1. Are we going to make the decision **to stop complaining** and saying, “I wish things were like they were 2 plus years ago,” or whenever our golden days were?
2. Are we ready to say, “They intended it for bad, **but God can use it for good** in our life.”

**ON TV/OUTLINE:** First, Invest more **TIME ALONE WITH GOD**.

**ON TV/OUTLINE:** “28 Don't you know that the Lord is the everlasting God, and he created everything on this earth? And **he never grows tired or weary**... 29 **he gives strength to those who are weary and worn out**; and he gives power to the weak. 30 Even young people become exhausted and want to give up. 31 **But those who trust and wait on the Lord will find new strength**, flying high like eagles. They will run and not grow weary. They'll keep going and not faint.” Isaiah 40:28-31

**ON TV:** When we're stressed by constant, continual major changes like we're going through right now, don't seek a **quick fix**. Don't look for an **escape**. Don't look for a **shortcut**. **Don't fight** changes that you can't possibly control. Instead, **seek God on a daily basis**.

**ON TV/OUTLINE:** **Second**, Ask God to help us see **HIS PERSPECTIVE**.

**ON TV:** It is the difference between **information** and **wisdom**.

**ON TV:** What's missing in our life is **understanding**.

**ON TV/OUTLINE:** “God let the people of Israel see his mighty **actions**, but he revealed his **ways** to Moses.” Psalm 103:7

**ON TV:** **Ask God** for wisdom.

**ON TV:** “If you need wisdom, **just ask God** for it! **God is generous** and he'll gladly give us the wisdom we need.” James 1:5

**ON TV:** Become a **growing disciple** of Christ, who **makes disciples**, by **reading the Bible** and **listening** to those who teach it.

**ON TV:** “We have greater confidence in the message of the prophets. **Pay close attention** to what they wrote for their words are like a **light shining in a dark place**.” 2 Peter 2:19

**ON TV:** What do you pay the **most attention to** on most days?

**ON TV/OUTLINE:** **Third**, Instead of asking “Why is all this happening?” Ask God, “What do you want me to **LEARN**?”

**ON TV:** Focus on our own **character first**, not the changes in society or the circumstances around us.

**ON TV:** “3 We can rejoice even in our **troubles** and our **struggles** because we know this is **wisdom** that they teach us. We learn **endurance**. 4 And endurance develops **strength of character** and character creates **hope**.” Romans 5:3-4

**ON TV:** Wise, spiritually mature people with perspective, people of character, are **hopeful** people.

**ON TV/OUTLINE:** “12 I've **learned** the secret of **being content** in any and every situation, no matter what happens. I can live when I have more than I need or when I don't have enough. 13 **I have the strength** to face all conditions by the **power that Christ gives me**.” Philippians 4:12-13

**ON TV:** What have you **learned about yourself and your response** to all the changes over the last couple of years?

**ON TV:** Every situation is an **education**.

**ON TV/OUTLINE:** **Fourth**, **Focus** on what **NEVER CHANGES**.

**ON TV:**

- First, **God's love** for you and me will never change.
- Second, **God's truth** in His word, the bible will never change.
- Third, **God's plan and purpose** for our life will never change.

**ON TV:** *"I have loved you with an **everlasting love**."* Jeremiah 31:3

**ON TV:** *"...**The word of God** shall stand **forever**."* Isaiah 40:8

**ON TV:** *"**His plans** endure forever; **his purposes** last eternally."* Psalm 33:11

**ON TV/OUTLINE:** **Fifth**, Keep telling God, **"I TRUST YOU** no matter what."

**ON TV/OUTLINE:** *"The righteous man **does not fear bad news**, nor live in dread of what might happen. For he is **settled in his mind** that God will take care of him."* Psalm 112:7

**ON TV/OUTLINE:** *"Even if a whole army surrounds me, I will not be afraid! And even if enemies attack me from all sides, **I will still trust God!**"* Psalm 27:3