

SENSELESS Unlikely Heroes – Part 2 of 4

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

KEY OBSERVATIONS:

#1: The mystery of God’s ways are 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 (NLT)

- When I can’t explain the **UNEXPLAINABLE**, I must choose to trust the **UNDENIABLE**. And that undeniable I trust in is God.

#2: In His loving grace, God works out His supreme purpose **WITHIN** and **IN SPITE** of our corrupt human nature.

KEY TRUTHS: When my life doesn’t make sense, I will . . .

1. Remember God’s **PROMISES**

“Then he added, ‘I will give you more descendants than you can count.’ ” Genesis 16:10 (NLT)

“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 (NLT)

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 (NLT)

- My way **SEEMS** to make sense, but will just create more **TROUBLE**

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

- 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 (NLT)

- Hagar didn’t have an **EXPLANATION**, she only had a **DIRECTIVE**.

- The key – 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 (NLT)

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

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 (NLT)

- God’s provision is exactly **WHAT** we need, **WHEN** we need it.

“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 (NLT)

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 (NLT)

“Yes, 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 (NLT)

- In His presence we 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**.