

God Is Good Even When Life Is Not (Acts 9:11-16; 23-25; 26-28)

A. Before, During and After

- One of three things is certain: You are coming out of a difficult season, in the middle of one, or entering one. This poses a question: Will I trust that God is good, even when life is not?
- 1. Trusting Thomas
 - a. The disciple Thomas is often criticized for his lack of faith, but Jesus was willing to “prove” to Thomas that the reports were true! Jesus is alive! (John 20:27).
 - b. Doubting Thomas became trusting Thomas and went on to evangelize in the name of Christ.
- 2. Believing Without Seeing
 - a. Mark 4:35-41 records the story of Jesus and His disciples crossing the Sea of Galilee. Interestingly, this came after His teaching on the Sower.
 - b. Teacher, don’t you care?
 - His disciples assumed that because Jesus was not worried when the storm arose, it meant He didn’t care. In reality, He wanted to demonstrate to them what they should be trusting in: not the boat, but in His power to control the wind and wave.

B. Dealing with doubt

1. Satan has a strategy that causes us to question –
 - a. The Word of God (Genesis 3:1-5)
 - b. The Authority of God (Luke 4:3-12)
 - c. The People of God (Rev. 12:10-11)
2. Overcoming these doubts requires . . .
 - a. A spiritual dimension. Our battle is not with flesh and blood (Eph. 6:12; 2 Cor. 10:3-6).
 - b. An intellectual defense. Faith and reason are not at odds, but reason must serve faith (Colossians 2:8-10).
 - c. A humble demeanor. Just when you think you’ve got it all figured out, realize you don’t! (1 Cor. 8:1-3).

C. More Than You Can Handle (1 Corinthians 10:13)

1. This Scripture often is interpreted to mean that God will not give you more than you can handle.
 - a. Actually, it’s referring to temptation to do evil. The promise is that God will always provide a way of escape if we look to Him.
 - b. In reality, God will often give us more than we can handle (responsibility) so that we learn to trust and depend on Him.
2. Paul’s Thorn in the Flesh (2 Corinthians 12:7–11)

- a. Paul had a “thorn in the flesh” that he describes as a “messenger of Satan” sent for the purpose of hindering his Gospel mission (see 2 Corinthians 11:22-33).
- b. God did not rebuke Paul for requesting relief, but God allowed this “thorn” to buffet him (called a “divine passive”).
- c. In this God revealed the sufficiency of His grace to endure and eventually overcome.

D. Navigating the Storms of Life

1. God is with you in the midst of the storms, no matter how alone you may feel.
 - The disciples in the boat didn’t need God to keep the storm from arising. God’s presence was all they needed.
2. God will use these storms to accomplish His will in your life.
 - a. Paul and the disciples were in God’s will, not out of it.
 - b. Knowing whether God *caused* the storm or *allowed* it is not as important as knowing God *used* the storm.

Postscript: Proverbs 3:5–6 (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.

(VFC, August 31, 2025)