

2 Timothy 1:9-12 – November 15th, 2020

God Will See You Through

JD Farag

Good morning and welcome to our second service. On Sunday mornings, we have two services: The first of which is the Bible Prophecy Update, and this second service is our verse-by-verse study through the Bible. We are currently in the book of 2 Timothy. We'd encourage you to join with us. Today is the 15th, and the text today will be chapter 1, 2 Timothy verses 9-12.

Just by way of a reminder, we do have our new website, JDFarag.org, launched. There is a lot of activity on the discussion Forum. We'd encourage you if you haven't already to check it out. The link will be below in the description field on this video for those of you online.

Also, just really quick, before we get started, I need to let you know about this. I was made aware of this earlier in the week that there is another one anyway, a fake J.D. Farag Account. It was on Facebook, and they used... You need to pray for these people. They need Jesus. But they use the photos, and they make it look like it's our site. It's not.

The reason you know it's not is because they want money. We never ask for money. In fact, for those of you online, we don't even receive an offering here at the church. Not that there's anything wrong with that. We just have a couple of boxes in the back, so we'll never do that. If you get a friend request or a message that is supposedly from me? I feel like the Apostle Paul... Okay, was that bad? A letter as if from me because there were fake accounts, "Apostle Paul accounts," on Facebook at the time. But if you get something like that, it's not me. Report it immediately. We have an amazing social media team. They're on it and will take care of it.

Okay, let's get into the Word. Hey, this one's right! Wow, thank you, Jesus. Today is Sunday, November 15th. I'm just doing this for myself. 2 Timothy Chapter 1, We'll begin in verse 9, and we will read through to verse 12. I'll ask those of you that are here, if you're able to stand, you can follow along as I read. If not, where you're seated is fine.

The Apostle Paul is writing and by the Holy Spirit says verse 9, "He has saved us and called us to a holy life - Not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time. But [verse 10] it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life, and immortality to light through the gospel.

And of this gospel [verse 11] I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher. That is why I am suffering as I am. Yet this is no cause for shame because I know whom I have believed, and I am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him until that day." Wow! "Chicken skin," as we say. Goosebumps for those of you on the mainland. All right, sorry.

Let's pray. Thank you, Lord. Lord, thank you so much for your Word. It's life. It's living water. It's the bread of life. Lord, we're hungry and thirsty, and know that only you can satiate that hunger and that thirst that we have. Lord, will you in this time that we have together in your Word today do that for us? Minister to us, feed us, encourage us? Lord, thank you in advance for what you're going to do in this time that we have together, we pray. In Jesus' name. Amen and Amen. You can be seated. Thank you.

I want to talk with you today about how it is and why it is that, and please don't misunderstand me when I say it this way. I don't mean to be dismissive of whatever it is that you're going through that trial that difficulty but no matter what you're going through, I don't care what it is... I think that came out totally wrong. I do care, but it doesn't matter. Is that better? That's the best I got, so you're going to have to take that one.

It doesn't matter whatever you're going through; God will see you through - Period. I promise you, on the authority of God's Word and God's love and God's nature, and I testify to you today on this day. I've been walking with Jesus Christ for 38 years, and he has pulled me through unthinkable, unspeakable difficulties, that quite frankly, quite honestly, I'm being very open with you, I truly

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thought this is how it ends. I'm not making it out of this one. I mean, the Lord brought me through the last one, but this one? This is how it ends.

But here I am. God brought me through. God is faithful. He is able. God is good, and God loves us so much, and that's what I want to talk about today. If I'm yelling, for those of you online, I'm yelling because it's raining, and it's kind of loud so it gives me an excuse to yell. That's my story, and I'm sticking with it. It is a custom in my country...

In the text that we have before us today, the Apostle Paul reveals what I would argue are two of the most profound yet simple truths in all of Scripture. So much so that these two truths have the propensity to absolutely change everything as it relates to the hardships and the difficulties and the trials and the sufferings of this life. I know that's kind of a big statement, a big way by way of an introduction, but it's true. It's true.

I pray, and my prayer and my hope is that you will be encouraged today as I have been encouraged by this text that we have before us. For me, it has served as a much-needed reminder of the faithfulness and the goodness of God. No matter what it is. One of the things I'm learning in my walk with the Lord is that no matter how bad it is, it cannot change how good God is - always is. That situation in your life, that struggle, that difficulty, will not have the final word in your life. God will have the final word, you'll see. Just wait; You'll see.

The first one is in verses 9-10. It's because of what He's done, emphasis on "He has done." Here, Paul reminds Timothy, even encouraging Timothy, concerning how it is that it's not because of anything we do. In other words, it's because of what Jesus has already done. It's been said, rightfully so, that religion is what man does for God, but Christianity is what God has already done for man. He sent His only begotten Son because He loves us so much, to die for us instead of us. That's how much He loves us. He already did it. It is done. It is finished.

Please, I know, this might sound like a firm grasp of the obvious, but the fact is that Jesus dying for us and saving us means this. There's nothing that He will not do for us because of what He's already done. Please stay with me. The enemy sadly has succeeded in some measure by getting us to doubt the goodness of God when we're in the midst of those trials in life. I'll expound on that and explain that.

It's kind of like this. You're going through this trial, and the enemy is right there, and he's convincing you (I'm using that word for a reason) that God is mad at you. God is punishing you. That's why you're going through what you're going through. That is not true. That is a lie from the father of lies because my relationship with God is not predicated on what I do for God. Can you imagine? I mean, think about this. Let's just play it out for just a moment.

Let's just for the purpose of discussion, okay? Let's just say that the goodness of God was predicated on my goodness. Oh, by the way, spoiler alert, later on in 2 Timothy, Paul is, by the Holy Spirit, going to say to Timothy when we are faith-less, He is faith-full. In other words, it is not predicated upon me and what I do. He's already done it. It's a done deal. But let's just get back to our hypothetical.

Let's just say that God's goodness to me was predicated on my faithfulness and being a good Christian. But let's just say I kind of had a bad week. Man, I kind of messed up. You did? Not me. This is hypothetical, remember? Don't look at me like that. Yeah, I kind of messed up again and here's the enemy, man, I'd lay low for a while if I were you. You know what? I wouldn't go to church this week if I were you. If the person sitting next to you knew? Don't look at the person sitting next to you. If they only knew what you did. Ho! He convinces us that God is angry with us and as they say, we're kind of "waiting for the other shoe to drop." Oh, man, I'm going to get it. Do you know what that does? It distances us from the Lord, and that's why you know that it's not the Lord because, see, that's condemnation.

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Romans 8 verse 1 says, "There is, therefore, now no condemnation to those that are in Christ Jesus." God is not angry with you. He's not mad at you. Do you know what our problem is? We look at our heavenly Father through the lens of our earthly father. Oh, my earthly father was not... He was always angry with me. I mean, all the time. He had reason to be, probably, but he was always mad at me. I mean, I would try to sleep in until he left the house in the morning, and I would try to go to bed early before he came back to the house at night just so I could avoid him because he was always angry. I was always getting in trouble.

Reminds me, I think it was Mark Twain, who famously said, "At the end of the day, spank your children for certainly they have done something wrong." I think we see God like that, right? It's kind of like I'm going to get a spanking again, man. But that's not true. What do you mean? Because of what he's done for you. Do you realize what He's done for you? Yeah. Yeah, but if he's willing to do that for you, is there anything that He's unwilling to do for you?

What did James say? He said, "Every good and perfect gift comes from the Father above." There's no changing of his mind. There is no back and forth, like wait... If it's good, It's God. You got it! If it's good, God will give it to you, not because you're good. Because I mean, come on, who's good? Don't raise your hand whatever you do. None is good - save One.

I actually want you to turn to Romans 8 verse 32 if you would please. I have to say that this one verse in this amazing chapter, I know I say this all the time, but it's one of my favorite chapters in all of the Bible. Romans Chapter 8, listen if you are doubting God's love for you, questioning God's love for you? I would really encourage you to spend some time in this chapter, in Romans, chapter 8, the whole chapter.

But there's this one verse here in chapter 8, verse 32, that, for me personally, changed everything. It changed how I look at everything and how I view the difficulties, and the trials, and the sufferings of this life. I mean, it changed it. I've never looked back. It's a game-changer if I can say it like that.

This is what Paul says. It's a rhetorical question actually if you'll catch it. He says, "He who did not spare His own Son but delivered Him up for us all..." Here comes the rhetorical question: "How shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?"

Let's talk about this for a moment. Do you know what he's saying here? He's saying Jesus died for you. God was not willing to withhold from you His only begotten Son to die for you. Is there anything that He won't do for you? Look, we're trusting the Lord when that trumpet sounds and the dead in Christ rise first, we who are alive and remain to be caught up to meet the Lord in the air. We're trusting the Lord for that, but we can't trust the Lord for this month's rent? How does that work? Well, that's what he's saying.

I guess I could have put it in a nicer way, but I'm feeling a little bit "snarky" today. That was snarky, wasn't it? That's a good word too, isn't it? Snarky, it's just one of those words that sound like what it is - snarky.

Okay, so this is what God has done for me. Is there anything He won't do for me? If it's bad, He's not going to give it to me, and you don't want him to give you anything that would be bad for you, right? But if it's good, why would God withhold it?

I mean, let's think that through too. God gave us His Son, would not spare his own Son, delivered him up for us all. And what's God going to say? Listen, I've done my part here, okay? I know this is a silly illustration, but you'll get the point. I think. I gave you my only begotten Son what more do you want? It's up to you now. Take it from here. I did my part. Are you kidding me? That's impossible!

That's not who God is, which is the second reason that whatever you're going through, you can be assured that God will see you through because of who He is in verses 11 and 12. I don't know if it's

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possible to overstate the importance of not just what Paul says, but perhaps more importantly, what Paul does not say here in these two verses.

Notice in verse 12 he says, this is why I'm suffering, Timothy. I mean, he's not complaining or seeking pity. It's a badge of honor for him. But he's just simply explaining that this is why he's suffering, but then he tells Timothy this. He says he knows in Whom he believes. Oh, interesting. Notice what he doesn't say. He doesn't say I know in what I believe. He doesn't say that. He says I know in Whom I believe. Well, why are you making this distinction and emphasizing this? Because what you believe will never see you through. It's Who you believe that will see you through. It's Who God is. It's how good God is.

1 Corinthians 10:13, if you wouldn't mind, I'd like to encourage you to turn there as well in your Bibles. This is another game-changer, for lack of a better way of saying it, and it's one that we quote perhaps without even knowing it. In fact, we do it in a sort of a "canned cliché way." It's usually this way: God will never give you more than you can handle. I mean, if you're anything like me when I'm going through a trial and somebody says that to me, I don't warm up to that very well. I know that! It's easy for you to say, look at you. You're fine!

But that's where it comes from is this verse in 1 Corinthians 10:13. Listen to what Paul says. He says no trial... Some of your translations render it temptation, the same word in the original. If you think about it, any temptation is a trial, and any trial is a temptation. Right? Same word. "No trial has overtaken you [seized you], that is not faced by others [common to man]. And God is faithful. He will not let you be tried beyond what you are able to bear. But with the trial will also provide a way out so that you may be able to endure it."

Okay, let's work through this. First of all, there is no trial, no temptation in your life that God is going to allow that will be your end. He won't allow it. By the way, that trial you're in? Oh, we have brothers and sisters in Christ throughout the ages that have gone through similar trials, and God has seen them through similar trials.

Peter says, don't think it's some strange thing when it happens like, God, what are you doing? What are you talking about? What am I doing? Why are you doing this to me? No, no, I'm not doing anything to you. I'm doing this for you, not to you. First thing, no trial is going to overtake you and be the end of you. Here's why. It is because God is faithful, and he's not going to allow you in that trial to go beyond what you're able to bear up under.

Now here's the key, and I wish it weren't so if I could be so candid. Because he says, it's with the trial, in the trial, vis a vis the trial, He will also provide a way out, an escape, so that you are able to endure it. In other words, how am I going to get through this? Oh, by going through it. What? Oh, Lord, you promised you're going to see me through this! But that's not really our prayer. Oh, it sounds biblical and right and noble and good. Right?

Do you know what we're really asking? We're not saying get me through this. We're saying, Lord, get me out of this. Right? I'm not going to get you out of this. I'm going to get you through this because there are things that I want to teach you in and through what I'm allowing you to go through that you could not otherwise learn.

Do you know what they call something that is sunshine all the time? Oh, happy day, I mean, no rain, just sunny day, blue sky. Do you know what they call that? A desert, a barren desert. Nothing's going to grow. If you got a better one, let me know please, but that's the best I got again. But think about it, how are we going to grow? If everything is just sunny and blue sky and great? Our lives are barren. It's the storms of life, the trials of life.

When we first moved to Hawaii, my wife, who was born and raised here, kind of had to brief me on a few things. Well, not a few things, a lot of things. One of the things was learning how to pronounce

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the names of the streets, which I still cannot pronounce. Our GPS' don't' do a better job anyway. Isn't that funny? The Likelike Highway. No, anyway, I digress.

But one of the things that she had to kind of brief me on and inform me about was concerning this plumeria tree that we had in our front yard. In the winter, I'm looking at this tree, and I'm thinking, the thing is dead. No, it's completely dead. I mean, the flowers that once bloomed on that thing - gone. There's not a leaf left and those branches... I don't know why... you know, maybe it's the "fall."

But those branches on the plumeria tree in the winter do they not look dead to you? I'm thinking it's dead. That's too bad because I really liked that tree. My wife said it's not dead. What do you mean? Oh, just wait. You'll see. Well, that's the problem. I don't want to wait. I hate to wait. So, do you too. Right? We hate to wait. But here's what happens. During the winter, when we think it's dead, nothing's happening. Oh, there's a lot happening. Do you know what's happening? The root system of those trees, and this is true of palm trees and really all trees, that root system is digging down deeper and stronger so that when not if, the spring storms hit?

I love palm trees. Oh, I love palm trees. Where I come from on the mainland, no palm trees, pine trees with snow. So, I love palm trees. But during a storm, those palm trees are bowed and bent, but they don't break because of the roots. The roots are strong, deep into the soil of the earth, so they can withstand. By the way, isn't that a good posture in the midst of a storm? To bow before the Lord, humble yourself before the Lord.

Let's establish this: That no trial is going to be your end, and the reason why no trial is going to be your end is that God in and through that trial is going to give you that which you need to make it through that trial. Namely, endurance, strength, perseverance. Oh, I wish it came a different way.

One of these days, I would love it... You see those advertisements for this new medication on TV? They always play hypnotic melodic music as they list the side effects; which have you listened to those side effects? Oh, my goodness! Death, internal bleeding... I'm thinking, and I want to take this? But I wish there were a pill that you could take, a perseverance pill. So here comes the trial, just take a perseverance pill, and I can do this. It doesn't work that way.

Do you know how you're going to make it? You've got to go through it. The strength that you need is in the trial that you're going through. That's how you're going to get through it. You'll be able to endure it, bear up under it. I think I would be grossly remiss if I were not to mention that this goes both ways, by the way. Let me explain.

We're quick to quote this in the context of adversity: God won't give you more than you can handle. Have you ever thought of it like God won't give you more prosperity than you can handle either? No, think about it. God knows that would not be good for you. So, when we pray, oh God, just let me win the lottery just one time, I'll tithe off the winnings. God says no, it ain't going to happen because if I were to allow you to win the lottery, it would destroy you.

You've seen those shows where they follow up with people that have won the lottery, and without exception, their lives are completely destroyed. Almost without exception, they'll say something to the effect of this was the worst thing that ever happened to me. My marriage is gone. My family is gone. My kids are gone. My life is gone.

So, it goes both ways. Now, why did I mention that? Because there's this safety mechanism, for lack of a better way of describing it, a safety mechanism, in everything that God allows into our lives. Understand that God will never allow the enemy to do anything to us unless He first allows it and approves it. That kind of messed you up but let me follow up on that.

God will never allow the enemy to do it unless ultimately, in the end, it's for your good and His glory. Ask Job about that. You can ask Peter about it and not just them, many others as well. But think

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about Job. In the end, he did not curse God but understand that Satan had to get permission before he could even touch one hair on Job's head. I think God has given Satan too much permission on the hairs on my head. Anyway, enough of my problems.

James Chapter 1, we'll need to spend a little bit of time on this as well. I know this will probably come out wrong, but for a pastor to say something like, I hate this verse. A pastor should never say it. Well, I shouldn't say it like that. I hate what this verse means and says. That's pretty much it.

But James says, "Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds..." Really? No. This is a poor translation of the original. So, you go to the original thinking of what it's supposed to say is: Consider it pure hell, my brothers and sisters... Right? Whenever you face many... No, "Consider it pure joy..."

Listen, if we're honest with ourselves, how many of us actually are overjoyed when we face trials? Listen, God will never say anything unless he also packages it with the ability to do it. I mean, he can't. It's inconsistent with who He is, and all Scripture is God-breathed, given for our instruction, reproof, rebuke. We hate that part.

But how is it possible to consider it pure joy when you're facing this intense, fiery trial? How is that even possible? The answer is in verse 3. It's, "Because you know [know] that the testing of your faith produces perseverance." And then he says this in verse 4, and the keyword is "let." The implication being that we fight it. We don't let it. "Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

Here's the thing. God desires to do something in your life, through your life, with your life, but he can't - yet. He first has to prepare you for that which he is preparing for you so that you can handle it. So? Here comes the trial because God needs to mature you. God needs to grow you. God needs to produce perseverance in you. God needs to test you and prove you, and sometimes He does it for you.

By that, I mean you're in the midst of a trial, and you're thinking this is it. You know, thanks for the memories. It's all over now. But what you didn't realize was: Is that God knew what you couldn't know unless you had gone through what you went through. And when you come out on the other side of it? You're going, Wow! God, I made it! I told you, you would. Yeah, but wow. Then here's what happens if I can make it through that? There's nothing I can't make it through. That's the point.

I hope this isn't uncomfortable for you, but I'm just going to be very personal with you and, by way of a testimony, share this with you. When our daughter Noelle died, I have to say it was the most painful experience of my entire life. I honestly, as God knows my heart, thought that there is no way we are going to make it through this. What I couldn't know was that God was actually preparing me for something that was just too high for my understanding. Because His ways are higher than our ways. His thoughts are not our thoughts. God had something planned. Do you know what he had planned? This church.

Here's what happened. Sitting there with my dying daughter, I got my Bible in one hand and my baby in the other. She was very tiny because of Trisomy 18. My wife and I slept in shifts because she required around the clock care. During my shift, which was the night till 4 am shift, she would get up at four. I would go to bed or no, I think, was the other way around. Anyway, it's all a blur now. But she required around the clock care.

I just remember those nights when I was just crying out to God. I mean, just thinking, Lord, we just planted the church. I had a business. I was working seven days a week. It was my "tent-making ministry," that's how we paid the bills, and then I'm starting this church. Why Lord? Oh, you'll see.

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He gave me Psalm 27 verses 13 and 14, and I have hung on to those verses for dear life for the rest of my life. David writes, "I would have lost heart, but I remained confident and convinced in this that I will see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living." And then he talks to himself. That's good, by the way. Self-talk and talking to self like in Psalm 42 and 43, which many believe are actually one song where David is giving himself a good talking to. You know sometimes we have to give ourselves a good talking to. Sit down, boy! We need to talk.

Oh, my soul, why be in such despair? For you will again have reason to praise the Lord. Sometimes you need to talk to yourself and remind yourself and tell yourself that. He gave me Psalm 27, verses 13 and 14, and here was the Word: Wait. Wait. Wait on the Lord. You will see. Do you know how we say? Just wait, you'll see? That's what Psalm 27:13-14 are: Just wait. You'll see. Again, I don't want to wait. I want to see now because we say seeing is believing.

But the problem is it's the other way around. Believing is seeing. Just wait. You'll see. Oh Lord, I don't know how we are going to... and the medical bills were coming in. How are we... There is no way. Well, there is a way - way. No way! Way! Just wait. You'll see.

When we first came here, I was counseled, very good counsel, by the way, that you had better make sure that you're called to start a church in Hawaii. Here's why. Many guys from the mainland are like yeah, here am I, Lord, send me. I mean, somebody has to go to Hawaii. The burden of the Lord. But the Hawaii that people vacation in, or used to anyway, is not the Hawaii that a pastor will minister in. It's very difficult, very expensive, extremely expensive, very difficult.

So much so that many pastors who come don't make it. A couple of years, they toss in the towel, and they leave. And when they do leave, they leave a bad taste in people's mouths. So, when you come here to start the church here, people are going to be watching you. Are you going to be just like everybody else from the mainland? You come here, you start the work and go, whoa! This was not what I thought! And then you leave. Or are you going to keep your hands to the plow?

We had just started the church. The church was probably 40-50 people, with half of them my wife's family. I remember in that SDA church that we rented for 12 years, the wooden pews, and it was so empty that whenever I would speak, it echoed. It was kind of like, hey, let's pray, pray, pray because there was nobody there. And it was when Noelle died that the people who were there watched. What's he going to do? Is he going to leave? Is he going to toss in the towel?

It's kind of like you're not going to get rid of me that easily. I kept my hands to the plow. And you know what God did? When the people saw, hey, this guy's not going anywhere. He's committed. He's called. They committed. Again, as the Lord knows my heart, I can trace the growth. God adds to the church that's not anything to do with me. I just am faithful. Keep my hands to the plow. God began to add to the church and grow the church from that point on.

During that time, of course, we had prayed for a daughter because we have two boys. When you have two boys, you don't want any more boys. You want a daughter. So, we had prayed. When we knew we were going to have a daughter, we were like, wow, praise the Lord. Then when the Lord took her home, I would be dishonest with you if I said to you that that didn't just shake me to the core.

Forty-five days after Noelle went to be with Jesus, my wife comes to me, and she says, honey, I want to have another daughter. And I laughed, being the great man of faith that I am. I'm like, oh, honey. See, for us, it took us 10 years to have children. We were what the medical community called "unexplained infertility." Do you know what unexplained infertility means? It's unexplained. We can't explain it. You're just infertile. So have a nice afternoon. We tried everything. We tried in vitro.

We even tried to adopt, and actually, we were ready to adopt this baby girl. We were there for the birth. My wife was inside. We even named her. The birth mother, a 15-year-old birth mother, open

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adoption, we were all ready to go. After she was born, the birth mother bonded and asked if she could take her baby home just for a couple of weeks before placing the baby with us for adoption. We knew okay, Lord, and we released her from the adoption, and she kept that baby. That was on June 1st, 1997.

I remember it as if it were yesterday because I went to the Lord on that day, and I cried out to the Lord, and the Lord gave me a word. It wasn't audible. It didn't need to be, but here was the word, just like with Abraham and Sarah, I'm going to give you a son one year from today. 10 years. Our firstborn son was born exactly one year to the day on June 2nd, 1998.

Now when I got that word, the Lord said, I want you to go and tell your wife that I'm going to give you a son one year from today. And like Sarah, she's going to laugh at you. I'm going somewhere with this. Just stay with me. So, I did. I went, and I said, honey, God spoke to me. We're going to have a son one year from today. And she laughed just like Sarah did. You know, like it's okay, honey. Like I've lost it. Well, that could be the case. But we're going to get through this. No, honey, we're going to have a son one year from today. And we did.

But we just couldn't have children. We had the pregnancies. We lost children in the pregnancies— one in the second trimester by way of a miscarriage. One was an ectopic, almost killed my wife. I'll never forget that night. Our first son was born, and then the ectopic came, and then we lost one of the fallopian tubes. I learned more about the female anatomy. I don't mean to get so detailed. No man should have to know about the...

Anyway, so we lost one of the tubes. Was that too much? I'm sorry. We only ovulated from the one side that we didn't have the tube on. So, our second-born son is almost more of a miracle. We, like it's me, bear with me. Pray for me, actually. But the ovulation took place on the opposite side, through the other good tube, and that's my second-born son, Levi.

Then when we had Noelle, as you might imagine, we were just ecstatic that we were going to have a girl. So... on May 4th, 2006, she died in our arms at Kapiolani Hospital. You can't really put to words the pain. It's just so deep. You just can't put it to words. But it was in that that my wife said I want to have another daughter, and then it was my turn to be like Sarah and laugh at her. She said, no, I want to have another daughter.

Not to replace Noelle, but to heal our broken hearts over Noelle. As only God can, we conceived the first time - a miracle. Now with Trisomy 18... and I don't want to get into all the medical reasons for this. Your odds of another Trisomy baby, which means the third copy of the 18th chromosome, trisomy, your odds don't go down. In fact, if anything, they are increased. We were automatically a high-risk pregnancy and not to mention our age at the time, which I'm not going to tell you how old we were.

We had to go in for an ultrasound on a regular basis. I'll never forget that one day when my wife and I prayed, and we said, okay, Lord, ... This is what they call the 4-D, where you... I mean, the technology, unbelievable. I mean, you can see everything. You can see more than you want to see. So, we go in, and we prayed, and said, okay, Lord. We already knew it was a girl. Because they always ask, do you want to know what the gender is? Yeah, that's fine, you can tell us, but I already know it's a girl.

But what we wanted to see was her hands because, with Trisomy, they can never open their hands. Their hands are clenched. We wanted to see her feet because, with Trisomy 18, the feet are what they call a "Rocker-Bottom." Everything is deformed. Right? We just wanted to see her hands open and her feet. So, they do the ultrasound, and our daughter waved at us.

I couldn't know at the time, oh, my goodness. I got everything that I prayed for because it was like, I'm fine. I'm fine. I'll see you soon. Well, she is 13 years old today; many of you know her. One of the

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God Will See You Through

JD Farag

things that I prayed was that she would be healthy, of course, and beautiful and smart. Unbeknownst to me, my wife was praying as only the wife can, not only that she would be healthy, beautiful, and smart but that she would have the voice of an angel to sing. Oh, my goodness. As they say, the rest is history.

I share that to say this. Yes, what you're going through may just seem unbearable. The pain is unspeakable. The difficulty... You just don't see how God... ... Like this is the one case where Romans 8 verse 28 doesn't apply, "That God works all things together for the good to them that love him and are called according to His purpose." There's no way that I can see how God can bring good out of this. Just wait. You will see. I promise you on the authority of God's Word because of what He has done and because of who He is.

I'll close the same way I began. It doesn't matter. I care! I love you! I care what you're going through, but it doesn't matter what you're going through! It doesn't matter how bad it is! God is good! And it cannot change how good God is! You just wait! You will see! All right.

Let's pray. Why don't you stand? Thank you, Lord. Sorry for yelling, not really. Oh, Lord, thank you so much. I'm standing here looking at your people, in this your church. It's just an absolute miracle. Lord, I thank you so much for the difficulties, the trials, the pain, the suffering.

Oh, God. I pray for anyone who's here today or watching online. Man, they're just hurting, and it seems really bad. Lord, I pray that as only you can, by the Holy Spirit, that you would comfort them, encourage them, strengthen them, remind them, that they would just wait on you, trust in you, knowing that they will see your goodness even in this as bad as it seems.

In Jesus' name. Amen