

“So That”  
Situations  
Part II

## Last Week...

You have heard me say this for years....

**EVERYTHING** that occurs in your life is **GOD ARRANGED OR GOD ALLOWED**

God allows/arranges catastrophes {Katrina, Rita, George Floyd...etc.....}

SO THAT SITUATIONS

God is Sovereign and he allows, arranges, and orchestrates certain circumstances in life to occur to give us "SO THAT SITUATIONS". He uses these situations for A GREATER PURPOSE!!!

*James 1:2-4 (NKJV)*

2 My brethren, **count it all joy** when you fall into various trials,

3 **knowing** that **the testing of your faith produces patience.**

4 But let patience have its perfect work,

**SO THAT** you may be **PERFECT AND COMPLETE, LACKING NOTHING.**

When You Face A Trial/Test in your life....

See it as a "SO THAT SITUATION"

Understanding This.... Changes Your Perspective

# Introduction

The *Gospel of John* is a book that shows us that God *orchestrates* **SO THAT SITUATIONS**  
For us **“TO BELIEVE”**

*John 20:31*

But these are written **SO THAT YOU MAY BELIEVE** that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God,  
and that **BY BELIEVING** you may have life in his name.

The Emphasis Throughout the Gospel of John ~ **TO BELIEVE**

## What Does It Mean To Believe?

*To Believe* simply means *to place confidence in...*

*To Believe* simply means *to have faith in....*

*To Believe* simply means *to be persuaded to be true...*

*As BELIEVERS* ~ We *commit* our lives *by faith* to Christ—  
to *trust Him PERSONALLY* as our *Lord and Savior*.

God's Desire Is For Us **TO BELIEVE IN HIM**

# WHAT IS *YOUR BELIEF* ROOTED IN?

*WE BELIEVE* the Bible is the Word of God...

Satan wants us *TO DOUBT* God's Word.

From The Very Beginning, The Enemy's Goal Is For Us *NOT TO BELIEVE* In God's Word

*Genesis 2:16-17 (NIV)*

16 And the Lord God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden;  
17 *but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil,*  
for when you eat of it *YOU WILL SURELY DIE.*"

*Genesis 3:1-7 (NIV)*

1 Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?" 2 The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, 3 but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'" 4 "YOU WILL NOT SURELY DIE," the serpent said to the woman. 5 "For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." 6 *When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.* 7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

***BELIEF AFFECTS YOUR BEHAVIOR***

# Understanding Your “SO THAT PURPOSE”

*John 1:6-12 (NLT)*

6 God sent a man, John the Baptist, 7 to tell about the light **SO THAT EVERYONE MIGHT BELIEVE because of his testimony.** 8 John himself was not the light; **he was simply a witness to tell about the light.** 9 The one who is the true light, who gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. 10 He came into the very world he created, but the world didn't recognize him. 11 He came to his own people, and even they rejected him. 12 But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God.

## This Helps You With **CLARITY** and **HUMILITY**

*John 1:19-27 (NLT)*

19 This was John's testimony when the Jewish leaders sent priests and Temple assistants from Jerusalem to ask John, **“Who are you?”** 20 **He came right out and said, “I am not the Messiah.”** 21 **“Well then, who are you?”** they asked. “Are you Elijah?” “No,” he replied. “Are you the Prophet we are expecting?” “No.” 22 **“Then who are you? We need an answer for those who sent us. What do you have to say about yourself?”** 23 **John replied in the words of the prophet Isaiah: “I am a voice shouting in the wilderness, ‘Clear the way for the Lord's coming!’”** 24 Then the Pharisees who had been sent 25 asked him, “If you aren't the Messiah or Elijah or the Prophet, what right do you have to baptize?” 26 John told them, “I baptize with water, but right here in the crowd is someone you do not recognize. 27 Though his ministry follows mine, I'm not even worthy to be his slave and untie the straps of his sandal.”

When You Understand Your **SO THAT PURPOSE** ~ It Gives You A Boldness In Who You Were Created To Be!!!!

# Understanding Your “SO THAT PURPOSE”

*John 3:25-28 (NIV)*

*25 An argument developed between some of John's disciples and a certain Jew over the matter of ceremonial washing. 26 They came to John and said to him, "Rabbi, that man who was with you on the other side of the Jordan--the one you testified about--well, he is baptizing, and everyone is going to him."*

*27 To this John replied, "A man can receive only what is given him from heaven.*

*28 You yourselves can testify that I said, 'I am not the Christ but am sent ahead of him.'*

*Do You Know Your Purpose!!!*

*God wakes me up every morning.... SO THAT I CAN....*

*God provides for me every day.... SO THAT I CAN....*

*God gives me a platform every day... SO THAT I CAN*

*Understanding This Helps With Clarity and Humility*

# Understanding Your “SO THAT MOMENTS”

*John 2:1-8 (NLT)*

*1 The next day there was a wedding celebration in the village of Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there, 2 and Jesus and his disciples were also invited to the celebration. 3 The wine supply ran out during the festivities, so Jesus' mother told him, "They have no more wine." 4 "Dear woman, that's not our problem," Jesus replied. "My time has not yet come." 5 But his mother told the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." 6 Standing nearby were six stone water jars, used for Jewish ceremonial washing. Each could hold twenty to thirty gallons. 7 Jesus told the servants, "Fill the jars with water." When the jars had been filled, 8 he said, "Now dip some out, and take it to the master of ceremonies." **SO THE SERVANTS FOLLOWED HIS INSTRUCTIONS.***

*What Was The Purpose Of The “SO THAT MOMENT”*

*John 2:11 (NKJV)*

*11 This beginning of signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and manifested His glory;  
**AND HIS DISCIPLES BELIEVED IN HIM.***

*The Signs Are Significant Because **They Led To A BELIEF** In His Power*

*His First Miracles **Caused His DISCIPLES TO BELIEVE!!!***

*How Can I Use You To Convince **Others To Believe.... UNLESS YOU BELIEVE FIRST!!!***

# Understanding Your “SO THAT MOMENTS”

## Example For Us To Follow

Exodus 4:1-9 (NKJV)

1 Then Moses answered and said, "But suppose they will **NOT BELIEVE ME** or listen to my voice; suppose they say, 'The Lord has not appeared to you.' " 2 So the Lord said to him, "What is that in your hand?" He said, "A rod." 3 And He said, "Cast it on the ground." **So he cast it on the ground, and it became a serpent; and Moses fled from it.** 4 Then the Lord said to Moses, "Reach out your hand and take it by the tail" (and he reached out his hand and caught it, and it became a rod in his hand), 5 "**THAT THEY MAY BELIEVE** that the Lord God of their fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has appeared to you." 6 Furthermore the Lord said to him, "Now put your hand in your bosom." And he put his hand in his bosom, and when he took it out, behold, his hand was leprous, like snow. 7 And He said, "Put your hand in your bosom again." So he put his hand in his bosom again, and drew it out of his bosom, and behold, it was restored like his other flesh. 8 "**Then it will be, if they do not believe you, nor heed the message of the first sign, that they may believe the message of the latter sign.** 9 And it shall be, **if they do not believe even these two signs**, or listen to your voice, that you shall take water from the river and pour it on the dry land. And the water which you take from the river will become blood on the dry land."

*He Is Given the Power To Perform The Spectacular.... Not For Show or Spectacle*

*But **SO THAT THEY MIGHT BELIEVE***



# Understanding Your “SO THAT MOMENTS”

## The Danger Of Depending On The Spectacular Rather Than Scripture

*Luke 16:27-31 (NLT)*

27 “Then the rich man said, ‘Please, Father Abraham, at least send him to my father’s home.  
28 For I have five brothers, and I want him to warn them so they don’t end up in this place of torment.’  
29 “But Abraham said, ‘Moses and the prophets have warned them. Your brothers can read what they wrote.’  
30 “The rich man replied, ‘No, Father Abraham! **But if someone is sent to them from the dead, then they will repent of their sins and turn to God.**’  
31 “But Abraham said, ‘If they won’t listen to Moses and the prophets, they won’t listen even if someone rises from the dead.’”

*Don’t fall into the trap of coming up with gimmicks and gadgets to get People To Believe*

*Eventually, **The WORD of GOD** must be the foundation of **BELIEVING!!!***

# WHO HAS “SO THAT MOMENTS”

## *The Religious Leaders*

*John 3:1-2 (NLT)*

*1 There was a man named Nicodemus, a Jewish religious leader who was a Pharisee. 2 After dark one evening, he came to speak with Jesus. “Rabbi,” he said, “WE ALL KNOW THAT GOD HAS SENT YOU TO TEACH US. Your miraculous signs are evidence that God is with you.”*

*John 3:10-12 (NLT)*

*10 Jesus replied, “You are a respected Jewish teacher, and yet you don’t understand these things? 11 I assure you, we tell you what we know and have seen, and yet you won’t believe our testimony. 12 But if you don’t believe me when I tell you about earthly things, how can you possibly BELIEVE if I tell you about heavenly things?”*

## *Theological Answer From Jesus*

*John 3:16 (NKJV)*

*16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever BELIEVES IN HIM should not perish but have everlasting life.*

*After His Disciples Were Given A Sign To Believe.... Then He Gives The Religious Leader Scripture To Believe!!!*

# WHO HAS “SO THAT MOMENTS”

## An Outcast Who Can Make An Impact

*John 4:7-9 (NKJV)*

7 *A woman of Samaria* came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give Me a drink."

8 For His disciples had gone away into the city to buy food. 9 Then the woman of Samaria said to Him, "**How is it that You, being a Jew, ask a drink from me, a Samaritan woman?**" For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.

*John 4:16-19 (NKJV)*

16 Jesus said to her, "**Go, call your husband, and come here.**" 17 The woman answered and said, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You have well said, 'I have no husband,' 18 **for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband;** in that, you spoke truly."

19 The woman said to Him, "**Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet.**"

*John 4:28-30 (NKJV)*

28 The woman then left her waterpot, went her way into the city, and said to the men, 29 "Come, see a Man who told me all things that I ever did. Could this be the Christ?" 30 **Then they went out of the city and came to Him.**

*John 4:39-42 (NKJV)*

39 And **many of the Samaritans** of that city **believed in Him because of the word of the woman who testified**, "He told me all that I ever did." 40 So when the Samaritans had come to Him, they urged Him to stay with them; and He stayed there two days. 41 **AND MANY MORE BELIEVED** because of His own word. 42 Then they said to the woman, "**Now we believe, not because of what you said, for we ourselves have heard Him and we know that this is indeed the Christ, the Savior of the world.**"

# WHO HAS "SO THAT MOMENTS"

## A Government Official

*John 4:46-53 (NKJV)*

46 So Jesus came again to Cana of Galilee where He had made the water wine. **And there was a certain nobleman whose son was sick at Capernaum.** 47 When he heard that Jesus had come out of Judea into Galilee, he went to Him and implored Him to come down and heal his son, for he was at the point of death.

48 Then Jesus said to him, "**Unless you people see signs and wonders, you will by no means BELIEVE.**"

49 The nobleman said to Him, "Sir, come down before my child dies!" 50 Jesus said to him, "Go your way; your son lives." **SO THE MAN BELIEVED THE WORD THAT JESUS SPOKE TO HIM,** and he went his way.

51 And as he was now going down, his servants met him and told him, saying, "Your son lives!"

52 Then he inquired of them the hour when he got better. And they said to him, "Yesterday at the seventh hour the fever left him." 53 So the father knew that it was at the same hour in which Jesus said to him, "Your son lives."

**AND HE HIMSELF BELIEVED, AND HIS WHOLE HOUSEHOLD.**

## Timeline Of Jesus' Journey

Disciples ~ **Believe**

Religious Leader ~ **Believe**

Samaritan Woman ~ **Believe**

Government Official ~ **Believe**

# WHO HAS “SO THAT MOMENTS”

## A Lame Man and Lame Jewish Leaders

John 5:6-15 (NKJV)

6 When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he already had been in that condition a long time, He said to him, "Do you want to be made well?" 7 The sick man answered Him, "Sir, I have no man to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; but while I am coming, another steps down before me."

8 Jesus said to him, "Rise, take up your bed and walk." 9 And immediately the man was made well, took up his bed, and walked. And that day was the Sabbath. 10 The Jews, therefore, said to him who was cured, "It is the Sabbath; it is not lawful for you to carry your bed." 11 He answered them, "He who made me well said to me, 'Take up your bed and walk.'" 12 Then they asked him, "Who is the Man who said to you, 'Take up your bed and walk'?" 13 But the one who was healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had withdrawn, a multitude being in that place. 14 Afterward Jesus found him in the temple, and said to him, "See, you have been made well. Sin no more, lest a worse thing come upon you." 15 The man departed and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well.

So, from vs. 16 ~ 47, Jesus has a dialogue with Jewish Leaders

Can you guess what the topic of discussion is.....

John 5:38 (NLT)

38 and you do not have his message in your hearts, **BECAUSE YOU DO NOT BELIEVE ME**—the one he sent to you.

John 5:46-47 (NLT)

46 If you really **believed** Moses, you would **believe me**, because he wrote about me.

47 But since **you don't believe** what he wrote, how will **you believe what I say?**"

# WHO HAS “SO THAT MOMENTS”

## The Multitude

*John 6:1-2 (NLT)*

*1 After this, Jesus crossed over to the far side of the Sea of Galilee, also known as the Sea of Tiberias.*

*2 A huge crowd kept following him wherever he went because they saw his miraculous signs as he healed the sick.*

## The Miracles Attracted The Multitude

*John 6:14-15 (NLT)*

*14 When the people saw him do this miraculous sign, they exclaimed, “Surely, he is the Prophet we have been expecting!”*

*15 When Jesus saw that they were ready to force him to be their king, he slipped away into the hills by himself.*

*John 6:24-27 (NLT)*

*24 So when the crowd saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they got into the boats and went across to Capernaum to look for him. 25 They found him on the other side of the lake and asked, “Rabbi, when did you get here?” 26 Jesus replied, “I tell you the truth, you want to be with me because I fed you, not because you understood the miraculous signs. 27 But don’t be so concerned about perishable things like food. Spend your energy seeking the eternal life that the Son of Man can give you.*

*John 6:28-30 (NLT)*

*28 They replied, “We want to perform God’s works, too. What should we do?”*

*29 Jesus told them, “This is the only work God wants from you: BELIEVE in the one he has sent.”*

*30 They answered, “Show us a miraculous sign if you want us to believe in you. What can you do?”*

# WHO HAS “SO THAT MOMENTS”

## The Multitude

### The Miracles Attracted The Multitude

The Objective Is To Get Them **TO BELIEVE** ~ Not Draw A Crowd

*John 6:59-69 (NLT)*

59 He said these things **WHILE HE WAS TEACHING** in the synagogue in Capernaum.

60 Many of his disciples said, “This is very hard to understand. How can anyone accept it?”

61 Jesus was aware that his disciples were complaining, so he said to them, “**Does this offend you?**”

62 Then what will you think if you see the Son of Man ascend to heaven again?

63 The Spirit alone gives eternal life. Human effort accomplishes nothing. And the very words I have spoken to you are spirit and life. 64 **BUT SOME OF YOU DO NOT BELIEVE ME.**”

(For Jesus knew from the beginning **which ones didn't believe**, and he knew who would betray him.)

65 Then he said, “That is why I said that people can't come to me unless the Father gives them to me.”

66 **At this point many of his disciples turned away and deserted him.**

67 Then Jesus turned to the Twelve and asked, “Are you also going to leave?”

68 Simon Peter replied, “Lord, to whom would we go? **YOU HAVE THE WORDS THAT GIVE ETERNAL LIFE.**

69 **WE BELIEVE**, and **WE KNOW YOU ARE THE HOLY ONE OF GOD.**”

## *The Objective Is To Get Them **TO BELIEVE** ~ Not Draw A Crowd*

*John 7:31 (NLT)*

*31 Many among the crowds at the Temple **BELIEVED IN HIM**. “After all,” they said, “would you expect the Messiah to do more miraculous signs than this man has done?”*

*John 8:28-30 (NLT)*

*28 So Jesus said, “When you have lifted up the Son of Man on the cross, then you will understand that I Am he. I do nothing on my own but say only what the Father taught me. 29 And the one who sent me is with me— he has not deserted me. For I always do what pleases him.”*

*30 Then many who heard him say these things **BELIEVED IN HIM**.*

*John 9:35-38 (NLT)*

*35 When Jesus heard what had happened, he found the man and asked, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?”*

*36 The man answered, “Who is he, sir? I want to believe in him.” 37 “You have seen him,” Jesus said, “and he is speaking to you!”*

*38 “**YES, LORD, I BELIEVE!**” the man said. And he worshiped Jesus.*

*John 10:39-42 (NLT)*

*39 Once again they tried to arrest him, but he got away and left them. 40 He went beyond the Jordan River near the place where John was first baptizing and stayed there awhile. 41 And many followed him. “John didn’t perform miraculous signs,” they remarked to one another, “but everything he said about this man has come true.”*

*42 And many who were there **BELIEVED IN JESUS**.*



# WHO HAS “SO THAT MOMENTS”

## His Friends and Family

John 11:1-6 (NLT)

1 A man named Lazarus was sick. He lived in Bethany with his sisters, Mary and Martha.

2 This is the Mary who later poured the expensive perfume on the Lord's feet and wiped them with her hair. Her brother, Lazarus, was sick. 3 So the two sisters sent a message to Jesus telling him, “**Lord, your dear friend is very sick.**” 4 But when Jesus heard about it he said, “Lazarus's sickness will not end in death. No, it happened for the glory of God **SO THAT** the Son of God will receive glory from this.” 5 **So although Jesus loved Martha, Mary, and Lazarus, 6 he stayed where he was for the next two days.**

## Demonstration For Disciples To Believe

John 11:12-15 (NLT)

12 The disciples said, “Lord if he is sleeping, he will soon get better!” 13 They thought Jesus meant Lazarus was simply sleeping, but Jesus meant Lazarus had died. 14 So he told them plainly, “Lazarus is dead. 15 **And for your sakes, I'm glad I wasn't there, for now, you will REALLY BELIEVE.** Come, let's go see him.”

## Demonstration For Martha To Believe

John 11:25-27 (NLT)

25 Jesus told her, “I am the resurrection and the life. **Anyone who believes in me will live,** even after dying. 26 Everyone who lives in me and **believes in me will never ever die. DO YOU BELIEVE THIS, MARTHA?**” 27 “Yes, Lord,” she told him. “**I HAVE ALWAYS BELIEVED** you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one who has come into the world from God.”

# WHO HAS “SO THAT MOMENTS”

## *His Friends and Family*

### *Demonstration For The People To Believe*

*John 11:41-43 (NLT)*

41 So they rolled the stone aside. Then Jesus looked up to heaven and said, “Father, thank you for hearing me.

42 You always hear me, but I said it out loud for the sake of all these people standing here,

**SO THAT THEY WILL BELIEVE YOU SENT ME.”**

*John 11:45 (NLT)*

45 Many of the people who were with Mary believed in Jesus when they saw this happen.

*John 11:46-48 (NLT)*

46 But some went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done.

47 Then the leading priests and Pharisees called the high council together. “What are we going to do?” they asked each other. “This man certainly performs many miraculous signs.

48 If we allow him to go on like this, **SOON EVERYONE WILL BELIEVE IN HIM.**

*John 11:53-54 (NLT)*

53 So from that time on, the Jewish leaders began to plot Jesus’ death.

54 As a result, **Jesus stopped his public ministry among the people** and left Jerusalem. He went to a place near the wilderness, to the village of Ephraim, and stayed there with his disciples.

# WHO HAS “SO THAT MOMENTS”

## *His Friends and Family*

### *Demonstration For Many Others To Believe*

*John 12:9-11 (NLT)*

*9 When all the people heard of Jesus’ arrival, they flocked to see him and also to see Lazarus, the man Jesus had raised from the dead. 10 Then the leading priests decided to kill Lazarus, too, 11 for it was because of him that many of the people had deserted them and BELIEVED IN JESUS.*

## Conclusion

*John 12:37-38 (NLT)*

*37 But despite all the miraculous signs Jesus had done, most of the people still did not BELIEVE IN HIM.*

*38 This is exactly what Isaiah the prophet had predicted: “Lord, who has believed our message?”*

*Every So That Moment Has A Significant Purpose....*

*For Someone To Believe!!!!*

Everything Is  
God Arranged Or Allowed  
“So That”

YOU WILL BELIEVE