

Trusting God When Everything is Going Wrong

July 26th 2026 Bob Metcalf

There are *two words* in the Bible that can change everything.
They can turn disaster and defeat into victory.
They can turn complete hopelessness into blessing and fruitfulness.
They can turn the course of history and our future.

‘BUT GOD’

Gen 8:1 “**But God** remembered Noah, He sent a wind to blow across the earth, and the floodwaters began to recede.”

Gen 17:19 “**But God** replied, (to Abraham) “No—Sarah, your wife, will give birth to a son for you. I will confirm my covenant with him and his descendants as an everlasting covenant.” (it is not going to be Ishmael)

Gen 19:29 “**But God** had listened to Abraham's request and kept Lot safe”

Jonah 4:7 **But God** also arranged for a worm!” that worm change the course of a mans life and history itself.

We are going to look at those two words today through the eyes of a teenager who had dreams and in impossible circumstances were able to see their God given dreams come to pass.

Text: Acts 7:8-10 “Abraham begot Isaac and circumcised him on the eighth day; and Isaac begot Jacob, and Jacob begot the twelve patriarchs.

And the patriarchs, becoming envious, sold Joseph into Egypt.

But God was with him and delivered him out of all his troubles and gave him favor and wisdom in the presence of Pharaoh, king of Egypt; and he made him governor over Egypt and all his house.

Joseph was hated by his own brothers. He was envied by them because of the favor of God on his life. They called him a dreamer.

And they threw him into a pit, sold him to some slavers and they took him to a foreign land to see him for 20 shekels of silver, equivalent to about \$500.00 today.

No doubt this 17-year-old boy was very frightened, surely this can't be happening to me! Surely, they are going to release me and let me go back to my father.

The men who bought him probably beat him and were speaking in language he didn't know. Just a teenage boy, he had to be terrified.

Ps 81:5 *"Where I heard a language I did not understand"*

He is taken to the land of Egypt and he finds himself in a market square, he is physically examined and then put up on the block to display to display him And with many people around him shouting, calling out prices, there was a bidding war for him. He was being auctioned off and he is bought.

He ends up being bought and owned by a man of the name Potiphar. As this biblical story goes. And he is a servant to Potiphar.

The story here only gets worse, as Joseph is captive to circumstances beyond his control and there is no escape.

Potiphar's wife takes a liking to Joseph, she tries to get him to sleep with her. He spurns her, he does not give into her, so she lies and says he tried to rape her.

-----This Hebrew slave tried to rape me.

Potiphar is furious and has him thrown into prison and he is in there for several years.

Ps 105:17-19 *"He sent a man before them—Joseph—who was sold as a slave. They hurt his feet with fetters, He was laid in irons Until the time that his word came to pass, the word of the LORD tested him."*

Ps 31:12 *"I am forgotten like a dead man, out of mind; I am like a broken vessel."*

There is no escape, how can it get any worse than this.

He is forgotten like a dead man forgotten and out of anyone's mind.

While in prison he interprets the Butler and the Bakers dreams.

His gifting is even operating in the worst of conditions.

The butler gets out of prison, but he too has forgotten Joseph.
Even though he had promised him he would remember him.

Joseph was betrayed by his own family and into circumstances beyond his own control!

We see those **two words** in the Book of Acts ch 7 that change everything

But God WAS with him when everything was against him,
BUT GOD His dream could never ever come to pass**BUT GOD!**

At the right timing, God's timing came to Joseph
But God moment came not a moment sooner or a moment late

But God, delivered him out of all his troubles and gave him favor and wisdom.
And took him from the pit, the prison, from the very bottom and put him on the top!

Ps 105:20-23 ***"The king sent and released him, the ruler of the people let him go free."***

*He made him lord of his house, And ruler of all his possessions,
To bind his princes at his pleasure and teach his elders wisdom.
Israel also came into Egypt, (because of famine)*

Gen 41:14-16 ***"Pharaoh sent for Joseph at once, and he was quickly brought from the prison. After he shaved and changed his clothes, he went in and stood before Pharaoh."***

Vs 15 *Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I had a dream last night, and no one here can tell me what it means. But I have heard that when you hear about a dream you can interpret it."*

"It is beyond my power to do this," Joseph replied.

***"But God** can tell you what it means and set you at ease or (at peace)."*

As Joseph, when we are in the direst circumstances of the pit or the prison, we will do everything we can to escape the circumstances we are in.

We will do anything to manipulate or say anything to get ourselves out of it.

Our posture in these times can help determine how long we will be in
Under the deep dealings of God.

You must trust God in these times for the '*But God*' deliverance.

Joseph did not elevate or promote himself. He let God do it.
This can be one of the most difficult lessons to be learned as Christians.

The King sent and released him!

Pro 25:6-7 "***Do not exalt yourself in the presence of the king,
And do not stand in the place of the great; For it is better that he say to you,
"Come up here,"
Than that you should be put lower in the presence of the prince,
Whom your eyes have seen.***

God is looking for a posture of humility from you.

Ps 147:6 "*The LORD lifts up the humble;
He casts the wicked down to the ground.*

James 4:6 "*God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.'*

1 Pet 5:5 "*Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for
'God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble.'*"

Pro 3:24 "*Toward the scornful he is scornful, but to the humble he gives favor
[grace]."*

While in the pit or in prison Joseph could have gotten scornful or bitter toward
those who wrongfully put him there.

Instead, Joseph ends up saving the whole world through a divine plan to store
grain in 7 years of times of plenty.

7 years of famine then take place and because of Joseph the whole world is fed.

At the end of this story in **Gen 50** Joseph's brothers are there and they finally realize that Joseph was the governor of all Egypt.

They had guilty consciences the whole time, what is Joseph going to do? Will he kill us. Now they are terrified!

Gen 50:18-20 *"Then his brothers also went and fell down before his face, and they said, "Behold, we are your servants."*

Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid, for am I in the place of God?

But as for you, you meant evil against me;

But God *meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive. Now therefore, do not be afraid; I will provide for you and your little ones." And he comforted them and spoke kindly to them."*

Gen 50:24 *"Joseph told his brothers, "***But God*** will surely come to help you and lead you out of this land of Egypt. He will bring you back to the land he solemnly promised to give*

Ps 75:6-7 *"For exaltation comes neither from the east Nor from the west nor from the south. ***But God*** is the Judge: He puts down one and exalts another.*

Joseph was God's man in God's hour of deliverance.

What the devil means for evil toward, a But **God** can turn for good!

If you are sitting here today and find yourselves betrayed, people speaking false things about you and you're in the pits because of those you trusted the most.

Thrown into circumstances beyond your control and your whole world is turned upside down and things might look completely hopeless.

I have two words for you;

BUT GOD! God was there before him; God was there the whole time.

If your life has been shattered and betrayed beyond belief and you sit there just stunned and would have never imagined this would have happened to you.

Don't allow your circumstances to make you bitter. Let them make you better.

If you will keep looking to God even if it seems like for a long season and it seems as though God is not doing anything.

You might say my life is a train wreck right now, I have no hope, I have no reason to believe anything you say is going to help right now.

"I am a hopeless case. I am not good enough"

"I don't meet a certain criteria"

I am here to bring truth to you about your condition from the Scripture.

Rom 5:8 *"But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."*

That word applies before we met Christ **and** after we have met Christ!

We will never be good enough for a God divine intervention.

When it says *"He demonstrates His love;* means *He commands* His love toward us!

It is His very nature; it is who He is!

You may think you are complete failure. I don't have the strength to keep going on.

This is when you put no trust in your own strength but in the strength of God to do it for you!

Pray and proclaim this; Put your hands over your heart.
Say it to your neighbor.

Psalm 73:26 *“My flesh and my heart fail; **But God** is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.”*

God wants to divinely intervene on your behalf!
Put your total trust in Him!

When we go through the worst of circumstances, it will test our faith in God.

Job said this, **Job 13:15** *“Though He slay me, yet will I trust in Him.”*

As fully man experiencing fully what a man would face and feel and facing certain death in the most horrible way **Jesus** was in the Garden,

This messianic Psalm quotes this. Jesus quotes this.

Ps 91:2 *“My God, in Him I will put My trust in Him.”*

And even when death was upon Jesus this messianic Psalm was known by Him.

Ps 49:15 *“**But God** will redeem my soul from the power of the grave,
For He shall receive me. Selah”*

We may be taken to the very threshold of death, our faith will be tested what is the confession of our mouth?

Even in the most difficult circumstances even leading to death and in my death my confession will be.

*“**But God** will redeem my soul from the power of the grave, For He shall receive me”*

It may seem like God is not working in your life,

Don't give up! God is there with you!

You may say, *"I am an unfaithful person who is lacking in faith."*

2 Thess 2:11-13 *"This is a trustworthy saying: If we die with him, we will also live with him. If we endure hardship, we will reign with him.*

Vs 12 If we deny him, he will deny us.

Vs 13 If we are unfaithful, he remains faithful, for he cannot deny who he is.

2nd Thess 3:3 *"**But God** is faithful; He will strengthen you and guard you from the evil one.*

But God!!

I want to leave you with a Bible story of a woman from Tekoa –Tek-o-ee'

2 San 14:2 *"a woman from Tekoa who had a reputation for great wisdom"*

2 Sam 14:1-24 *"Joab realized how much the king longed to see Absalom.*

² So he sent for a woman from Tekoa who had a reputation for great wisdom.

He said to her, "Pretend you are in mourning; wear mourning clothes and don't put on lotions. ^[a] Act like a woman who has been mourning for the dead for a long time. ³ Then go to the king and tell him the story I am about to tell you."
Then Joab told her what to say.

⁴ *When the woman from Tekoa approached^[b] the king, she bowed with her face to the ground in deep respect and cried out, "O king! Help me!"*

⁵ *"What's the trouble?" the king asked.*

*"Alas, **I am a widow!**" she replied. "**My husband is dead.** ⁶ My two sons had a fight out in the field. And since no one was there to stop it, one of them was killed. ⁷ Now the rest of the family is demanding, 'Let us have your son. We will execute him for murdering his brother.*

He doesn't deserve to inherit his family's property.' They want to extinguish the only coal I have left, and my husband's name and family will disappear from the face of the earth."

⁸ *"Leave it to me," the king told her. "Go home, and I'll see to it that no one touches him."*

⁹ *"Oh, thank you, my lord the king," the woman from Tekoa replied. "If you are criticized for helping me, let the blame fall on me and on my father's house, and let the king and his throne be innocent."*

¹⁰ *"If anyone objects," the king said, "bring him to me. I can assure you he will never harm you again!"*

¹¹ *Then she said, "Please swear to me by the Lord your God that you won't let anyone take vengeance against my son. I want no more bloodshed."*

"As surely as the Lord lives," he replied, "not a hair on your son's head will be disturbed!"

¹² *"Please allow me to ask one more thing of my lord the king," she said. "Go ahead and speak," he responded.*

¹³ *She replied, "Why don't you do as much for the people of God as you have promised to do for me? You have convicted yourself in making this decision, because you have refused to bring home your own banished son.*

¹⁴ *All of us must die eventually. Our lives are like water spilled out on the ground, which cannot be gathered up again.*

But God *does not just sweep life away; instead, he devises ways to bring us back when we have been separated from him.*

¹⁵ *"I have come to plead with my lord the king because people have threatened me. I said to myself, 'Perhaps the king will listen to me ¹⁶ and rescue us from those who would cut us off from the inheritance^l God has given us. ¹⁷ Yes, my lord the king will give us peace of mind again.' I know that you are like an angel of God in discerning good from evil. May the Lord your God be with you."*

¹⁸ “I must know one thing,” the king replied, “and tell me the truth.”
 “Yes, my lord the king,” she responded.

¹⁹ **“Did Joab put you up to this?”**

And the woman replied, “My lord the king, how can I deny it? Nobody can hide anything from you. Yes, Joab sent me and told me what to say. ²⁰ He did it to place the matter before you in a different light. But you are as wise as an angel of God, and you understand everything that happens among us!”

²¹ So the king sent for Joab and told him, “All right, go and bring back the young man Absalom.”

²² Joab bowed with his face to the ground in deep respect and said, “At last I know that I have gained your approval, my lord the king, for you have granted me this request!”

²³ Then Joab went to Geshur and brought Absalom back to Jerusalem. ²⁴ But the king gave this order: “Absalom may go to his own house, but he must never come into my presence.” So Absalom did not see the king.

Absalom Reconciled to David

There is great wisdom from the past
 From this woman of great wisdom.

¹⁴ *All of us must die eventually. Our lives are like water spilled out on the ground, which cannot be gathered up again.*

“But God does not just sweep life away; instead, he devises ways to bring us back when we have been separated from Him.”

But God!

If a But God can arranged for a worm! He can arrange for you!
 He devises ways

My counsel to you is this..... **Humble yourself before Him and ask Him to devise a way for you! But God!**