

# All In with Jordan Easley

## A Story Of Perseverance Through Trials

*The Story I'll Tell | Week 1 | 2 Corinthians 12:7-10; Romans 8:28; Romans 5:3-5*

### INTRODUCTION

### NOTES

Many people believe that if you are a Christian and if you love and trust God, then your life on earth will be free of trouble and tragedy. But that couldn't be further from the truth. Jesus promises His disciples (and therefore He promises us) that we WILL experience trouble. He said we'll experience difficulties, pains, and problems in this world, but He also reminds us that there is purpose in every problem. If you're walking through a difficult season today, the promises in today's key verses apply to you. God isn't surprised by your circumstance, but He does have a plan, and the Bible reminds us that His plan is always for the good of those who love God and are living for God. In this message, we are going to see what it looks like to persevere through our trials and we will learn about three things our trials lead us to.

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### KEY POINTS

#### 1. Endurance (not indifference)

In today's key passage, Paul was saying you can boast in your afflictions, and you can be encouraged when you recognize a thorn in your flesh. But why? Because affliction produces endurance. He was saying that these seemingly bad things make us better. Good things come from painful things.

Indifference is a natural response for sinful people. You don't have to work to develop indifference. Indifference is when you aren't really interested...it's when you aren't really concerned.

Endurance, on the other hand, is way different from that. When Paul said endurance comes from affliction, he uses a word that's defined as "the capacity to hold out or bear up in the face of difficulty." That's what God promises will come from our trials.

#### 2. Character (not complacency)

God never called us to a life of complacency. He's called us to a life of walking by faith and growing and developing as a child of God.

This whole passage of Scripture talks about that development process and how he uses our trials to make us more like Christ. He starts out by saying afflictions produce endurance, and then in Romans 5:4 he continues by saying, "endurance produces proven character..."

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The Bible tells us that proven character is the promised result of walking through difficult things. This means that when Christians cling to God, through Christ, by the Spirit, in the midst of suffering, they come out on the other side less complacent and more godly as a result.

### 3. Hoping (not coping)

Coping is basically defined as, “making the best of the world we’re living in as if our situation will never improve.” That shouldn’t be the story of the Christian life! God didn’t create you to COPE—He created you to have HOPE—even when your circumstances are grim. Romans 5:4 goes on to say, “...and proven character produces hope.”

Don’t miss what God is showing us today. He says affliction produces endurance. Endurance produces character. Character produces hope. This is a promise of God to us as believers!

The result of proven character is hope. And Romans 5:5 tells us, “This hope will not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured out in our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.”

### 4. Contentment (not resentment)

Romans 5 says hope will not disappoint us. Why? Because it’s our hope that shows us and reminds us that God is enough for us today.

Paul got to that place in his journey where he realized that God alone was truly enough for him. In fact, he wrote about it in Philippians 4:11-13, “I don’t say this out of need, for I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I find myself. I know how to make do with little, and I know how to make do with a lot. In any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of being content — whether well fed or hungry, whether in abundance or in need. I am able to do all things through him who strengthens me.”

God uses suffering in our lives to show us that He is truly all we need. For the apostle Paul, being in prison, beaten, and bleeding WITH God was way better than being a free man without God. And that same thing is true for Christians today. It’s better to suffer and HAVE God than it is to live an easy life on earth WITHOUT God.

### NOTES

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### QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. Have you ever had a thorn in your flesh? If so, what thorn has God used in your life to remind you of your ultimate dependency on Him?
2. Would you like to get to a place in life where you “lacked nothing”? How do you think you can get there?
3. How has God used trials and troubles in your life to give you more endurance, character, hope, and contentment?

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# All In with Jordan Easley

## A Story Of Salvation

*The Story I'll Tell | Week 2 | John 3:16*

### INTRODUCTION

Has Jesus genuinely saved you? If so, God has given you that story to tell. Maybe you're not sure how to tell your story. Perhaps you're wondering where to begin. If that's you, I want to walk you through four points that should be part of your story to help you build a framework from which you can share your testimony with others.

### KEY POINTS

#### 1. I was a sinner – separated from God

Our sin separates us from God. Romans 6:23 goes on to say, "the wages of sin is death..." That word death isn't speaking about our physical death (we're all going to physically die), but rather, it is talking about a spiritual death that results from unaddressed sin. And the worst part about it is that this death, or separation, is one that lasts for eternity.

But none of us want to experience that, right? You don't want to be eternally separated from the God who created you and loves you just because you're unwilling to address the sin in your life. But the good news is you don't have to! That verse goes on to say, "For the wages of sin is death, BUT the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." God sent His Son as a gift so that you don't have to experience eternal death.

#### 2. I was saved – through the Son of God

Some people think that being saved is like putting on a pair of sunglasses. It's basically like this: They pray a prayer, they walk an aisle, they get baptized and do a few spiritual things, and then they think they're good.

When you look at salvation like this, it's dangerous because, at this point, I'm still the same person, doing what I want to do. Now, at church, I've got my sunglasses on, but at work, or at school, or at the bar, I leave the sunglasses in the car.

I say that's dangerous because when you read God's Word and see how God defines salvation, you realize very quickly that Jesus never said He wanted to be a part of your life. He never said He came to be a supplement to your life or to make it better.

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# All In with Jordan Easley

## A Story Of Salvation

The Story I'll Tell | Week 2 | John 3:16

Being saved means that Christ IS your life. Colossians 3:4 says, "When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory." It doesn't say, "When Christ, who is a part of your life... It says, "When Christ, WHO IS YOUR LIFE!"

### 3. I was changed – by the Word of God

Hearing from God is unlikely as long as you have an unopened Bible. His word, in many ways, is His voice, and you can't hear His voice if you zip His lip!

The Bible is a gift from God. Have you ever really thought about the Bible like that? This isn't just a book. It's literally the word of God. Hebrews 4:12 says, "The word of God is living and effective and sharper than any double-edged sword...." God's Word is God's voice. It's His wisdom. It's our instruction guide for life, and it was authored by the One who created the world and everything in it!

When you are saved, God's intention is to change much more than your eternal destination. He intends to change your heart and mind and life. Romans 12:2 tells us, "... be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may discern what is the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God." That transformation happens – renewing your mind happens – by reading and digesting and applying the word of God in your life!

### 4. I was made new – by the Spirit of God

It's impossible to be SAVED and to remain the SAME, which means if there was a time when you walked an aisle or prayed a prayer, and today you don't really remember it too well, and you're left wondering, "Was that real?" or "Was I really saved?" The best way to answer that question is to truly inspect the fruit in your own life.

When the Bible talks about true believers and disciples of Jesus, it always talks about people that "bear fruit." Jesus said in John 15:8, "My Father is glorified by this: that you produce much fruit and prove to be my disciples." In other words, Jesus said, "You want proof that you're a disciple? The proof is in the fruit."

You can't fake the fruit. You can live a moral life and pretend to be a Christian for a while. But at the end of the day, if you haven't been saved by Jesus and you aren't truly surrendered to Jesus, the charade can only last so long. When you truly become a follower of Christ, you are made new by His Spirit and the fruit of your life will portray that newness.

## NOTES

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## A Story Of Salvation

*The Story I'll Tell | Week 2 | John 3:16*

### QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. How often do you open up God's Word and read it? If it's not that often, what is keeping you from hearing from God through His Word?
2. What fruit do you see in your life as proof that you have been made new in Christ?
3. When you test yourself today and examine your faith, does your salvation story pass the test?

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# All In with Jordan Easley

## A Story Of Healing

*The Story I'll Tell | Week 3 | John 5:1-9*

### INTRODUCTION

Perhaps right now you could say, "I have a deep wound that needs to be healed, or a relationship, or a family, or a disease, or a disorder that needs to be healed. Let me ask you: Do you want to get well? That was the question that Jesus asked in today's key passage. And after hearing many excuses, Jesus did what only Jesus could do. John 1:8-9 says, "Get up,' Jesus told him, 'pick up your mat and walk.' Instantly the man got well, picked up his mat, and started to walk." From this passage, we learn that Jesus is the source of healing. He is all-powerful and fully capable. He is the same yesterday, today, and forever. And even when you've lost hope and feel like your miracle is a million miles away, you've got to remember that Jesus can heal you. So with that in mind, in today's message, I want us to see five types of healing that God brings about in our lives.

### KEY POINTS

#### 1. Physical Healing

God's will and God's perfect plan is probably the most difficult thing we will ever attempt to wrap our minds around. Because the truth is, sometimes His perfect plan is to allow us to suffer and experience disease, illnesses, and hardships in this life. That doesn't make sense to us, but it's true.

Even in the Bible, Jesus healed many people He encountered, but He didn't heal EVERYBODY He encountered. In that day there were lepers and people who were paralyzed, deaf, blind, and bleeding. There were people he would have encountered that lived with hardships and disabilities. Many sick people died and stayed dead, even while Jesus was here in the flesh.

So, does Jesus heal everybody with a physical need? No, He doesn't. But is He capable of healing today? He absolutely is. So, why wouldn't we ask Him for healing? If we know He can heal, and we truly think He's capable of healing, then why wouldn't we ask and believe?

#### 2. Emotional Healing

In the same way God can heal us physically, He can also heal us emotionally. Do you know what it feels like to be broken emotionally? Do you know what it's like to feel a heaviness in your heart or feel incomplete because of damage done by someone else?

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## A Story Of Healing

*The Story I'll Tell | Week 3 | John 5:1-9*

Paul talked about feeling that way in Romans 9:2. He said, “I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart.” Have you felt like that before?

Most people are pretty good at pretending, especially in the church. Most hurt people have found ways to mask their heartache, but for many of us, we need to stop pretending and we need to give it to the Lord. If you’ve been emotionally wounded, you need to be healed! And Jesus can heal you of your emotional pain.

### 3. Relational Healing

God designed relationships to be one of our greatest sources of fulfillment and joy. Wouldn't you agree with that? I know that's been true in my life. The most important and most fulfilling things in my life are relationships – my wife, my kids, my parents and siblings, my friends, people in my church family, and Fellow believers around the world.

God designed relationships to be one of our greatest sources of fulfillment and joy, but what many of us have learned is that when relationships rupture, they can also become one of our greatest sources of pain and sadness.

We cannot overlook the fact that relationships are important to Jesus, and reconciling broken relationships is a ministry that He's called each of us into. We know this to be true based on 2 Corinthians 5:18, which says, “God has done all this. He has restored our relationship with Him through Christ, and has given us this ministry of restoring relationships.”

### 4. Personal Healing

One of the major themes of healing we've seen in this message so far is forgiveness (whether you're talking about emotional healing or relational healing), but the same is true when it comes to personal healing.

For some of us, our greatest wounds in life have been self-inflicted wounds. Sometimes the hardest thing for us to do after we've done something wrong is to forgive ourselves. We tend to be our harshest critics. Even after God has forgiven us and after other people have forgiven us, we are sometimes unable to forgive ourselves.

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## A Story Of Healing

*The Story I'll Tell | Week 3 | John 5:1-9*

In light of this, we all need to remember that forgiveness is what makes us free. And that's true when we forgive others, when God forgives us, and when we forgive ourselves.

### 5. Spiritual Healing

Spiritual healing is the most important healing we'll ever experience. I say that for three reasons:

- **Spiritual healing is the only healing that lasts forever.** Once a person is truly saved... they are saved forever. This means, once their sinful souls have been healed and restored, they are healed forever.
- **Spiritual healing is always God's will.** I can't stand here today and guarantee it's God's will to heal you physically, but I can say without a shadow of a doubt that it's God's will to heal you spiritually.
- **Spiritual healing is only available through Jesus.** Jesus is the source of healing. When He went to the cross, He went to the cross so that you could be healed.

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# All In with Jordan Easley

## A Story Of Healing

*The Story I'll Tell | Week 3 | John 5:1-9*

### QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. What kind of healing are you desperate for today?
2. Are you hurting because of a broken relationship? If so, have you forgiven that person? And are you trusting God to heal that relational wound?
3. Are you feeling emotionally broken right now? Have you gone to God in prayer and asked for healing in the midst of your brokenness?

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**A Story Of Provision**

*The Story I'll Tell | Week 4 | 1 Kings 17*

**INTRODUCTION**

**NOTES**

Sometimes in a world like this... a world of abundance and resources... we tend to forget that God designed us to have a primary dependency on Him... and God's people have forgotten that truth, time and time again. That's why Elijah warned King Ahab (in verse 1) and said—There's a famine coming to this land—a long and severe famine—and Israel will be punished for their sins. That's what it says in 1 Kings 16:30, "But Ahab son of Omri did what was evil in the LORD's sight more than all who were before him." Ahab's evil provoked God's anger, and now, as a result, Ahab was about to experience God's punishment for that sin. Fruitful land would become barren land, all because God's people forgot the source of their blessings and turned to false gods instead of the One True God. There is a lot we can learn from this story about God's provision. Specifically, There are two things in this story I want you to take note of today.

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**KEY POINTS**

**1. God provides for those who are faithful.**

I want you to notice how God provided for Elijah and those who were faithful.

**God hid them from danger.** He told them in verse 3 to "hide at the Wadi Cherith." By the way, the Wadi Cherith was a place on the East side of the Jordan River that was known for being an inhospitable area with no food supply.

Even today, when you cross the Jordan River from Israel to Jordan, you literally leave the Promised Land and enter a desert land. But that's what God told them to do. He told them to go to the desert. He hid them there.

**God provided for them.** Once they were hidden, He told them, "drink from the wadi." And then He told them that He had commanded the ravens to provide them with "bread and meat in the morning and the evening."

Can we stop there for just a second and talk about how crazy that statement must have sounded when God communicated this to Elijah?

# All In with Jordan Easley

## A Story Of Provision

*The Story I'll Tell | Week 4 | 1 Kings 17*

Here's what God just said to them, "I know I'm sending you to a place that doesn't have food, but don't forget, I'M GOD! So, you know what I've done? I've commanded a bunch of birds to drop a buffet on your heads twice a day, and as a result, you're going to be eating better than you were before all of this happened!"

If God tells you to do something, He'll provide for you when you do it. And that's true even when His provisions don't make sense. God blesses obedience and He equips those that He calls.

### **2. When God's provisions dry up, more provisions come.**

God is our source, and His well never runs dry. But He also uses resources to provide for us and sometimes those resources do run dry. In this story, the Wadi (or the water) dried up because of the lack of rain.

But here's what I want you to notice: the Source (God) allowed this Resource (the water) to dry up, and He did so in order to accomplish a couple of things:

#### **First, He reminded Elijah to remain dependent on Him.**

When the ravens stop dropping food and the water dries up, you're almost forced to stop and consider the true source of your blessings.

Elijah was at that place, a place where he was thinking, "Okay God, I've done what you asked me to do. I've gone where you told me to go, and now, I'm thirsty, I'm dying, and I no longer have what I need." This was a moment of reset, a moment of reflection. And I'm sure Elijah had to decide if he truly trusted God as His SOURCE.

#### **Second, He relocated Elijah so that others could experience God's provision.**

This sounds like an easy road trip when you read the Scriptures, but in this day, God was sending Elijah on a significant excursion. He was sending Him from the east side of the Jordan River all the way to Zarephath in Phoenicia, which was about a 50-60 mile journey.

As a side note, Zarephath was BAAL's hometown. So not only was this a hub for pagan worship, filled with people that hated Elijah (because they blamed him for the famine), but the drought in Zarephath was also just as severe as it was in every other place in the region.

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# All In with Jordan Easley

## A Story Of Provision

*The Story I'll Tell | Week 4 | 1 Kings 17*

### QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. In what way are you looking for God to provide for you right now?
2. Has there been a time in your life when God told you to do something or go somewhere that didn't make sense, but when you were obedient, He provided? What can you take away from that experience?
3. Is there something or someone you're currently depending on other than God to provide for you? If so, who or what is it?

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## A Story Of God’s Unwavering Faithfulness

*The Story I’ll Tell | Week 5 | Job*

### INTRODUCTION

### NOTES

Today, as we open God’s word to the book of Job, I want us to see from his life and his story: How to trust God when you don’t understand Him. Have you ever been at a place in your life where you just didn’t understand God? I’m talking about a place where you believe in God, but you just don’t understand Him. You don’t understand his decisions. You don’t understand how He could allow this or that. You don’t get his plans or His purpose. Have you been there before? I think many of us have been there and we often stay there. We don’t understand the point of sickness and death. We can’t wrap our minds around God allowing poverty and starvation. We look around at suffering and pain and loss and most of us are left wondering, “WHY?” How are we supposed to trust God when we don’t understand God? We’re going to be addressing that question today while looking at the life of Job.

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### KEY POINTS

#### 1. Job questioned God.

Do you know why he questioned God? He questioned God because of His false assumptions about God. Many people believe the Bible is exclusively a story about suffering. It’s really not. It’s just a journey of understanding God’s justice.

Job had a false assumption about God that many of us may have today. The assumption looked something like this: If humans were wise and good, they experienced blessings and success. If humans were righteous, God rewarded them. But if humans were evil and bad, God handed out punishment and consequences. And that’s why Job was so upset with God. His circumstances didn’t make sense based on his perception of God and the way He operated.

#### 2. God responded to Job.

After all the finger-pointing and name-calling, after hearing all the accusations and assumptions and misrepresentations, God finally responded to Job.

He asked Job in chapter 38:4, “Where were you when I established the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding.” And then if you keep reading chapters 38 and 39, you’ll see about 70 verses where God goes off, reminding Job that God’s eyes are blinded to nothing that’s happening in this universe.

# All In with Jordan Easley

## A Story Of God’s Unwavering Faithfulness

*The Story I’ll Tell | Week 5 | Job*

He’s a God who knows all and sees all and is aware of all things. He’s a God with a universal vantage point. And that’s what God was emphasizing in His response to Job that day. He was saying to him and showing him, “You are not God. You don’t see things from my perspective. You don’t have a universal vantage point.”

In other words, God told Job, “You’re asking questions that are way above your pay grade. I’m the potter. You’re the clay. I’m God and you’re not.”

### **3. We respond to God.**

How you respond to God matters. The Bible says that after Job humbled his heart and repented, the Lord blessed Him in greater ways than he had ever experienced previously.

In fact, Job 42:10 says, “The LORD restored his fortunes and doubled his previous possessions.” After all the accusations, assumptions, and even misperceptions about God, we see that God was faithful in the end.

This means that in our own lives, we can trust God to be faithful to us just like He was faithful to Job. Our God is a trustworthy God. We can trust Him even if we don’t understand Him. Our God has a different vantage point than we do. We can see to the corner. Our God sees around the corner. We see today. He sees eternity. And His plans are always God, even when they don’t appear that way.

### **NOTES**

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# All In with Jordan Easley

## A Story Of God's Unwavering Faithfulness

*The Story I'll Tell | Week 5 | Job*

### QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. Have you ever been in a place in your life where you just didn't understand God?
2. What strategy is the enemy using on you today? How is he enticing you to sin or tempting you to move away from God?
3. When was a time God proved Himself faithful and trustworthy in your life when you had no idea how things were going to turn out? What did you learn from that experience?

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