

Hey Newsong!

I want to take a moment and welcome our first-time guests and those who are watching online!

If you're just joining us, we're in a new sermon series called "But God".

"But God" is a powerful reminder that our circumstances never have the final word—God does.

Over these next six weeks, we will discover how God steps into moments of failure, fear, pain, and impossibility.

When life says, "It's over," Scripture reminds us that **God is still working, still faithful, and still able.**

Because no matter how the story begins, **when God steps in, everything can change—BUT GOD!**

Pray

Every great story has a turning point—a moment where all hope seems lost, the odds are stacked against the hero, and defeat appears inevitable.

In literature, we call it the climax. In life, we call it a miracle.

Consider the stories we tell:

- The disease was terminal... *until the treatment worked.*
- The debt was insurmountable... *until an anonymous gift paid it in full.*

- The marriage was over... *until both spouses surrendered to healing.*

We love turning points because we know what it feels like to stand at the edge of a cliff with nowhere to turn.

Throughout the Scriptures, the ultimate turning point in human history and individual lives is over and over summed up in just two short words: "But God."

When you examine the Bible from Genesis to Revelation, you find these two words appearing at the precise moment where human effort runs out, where sin brings death, and where human wisdom fails.

- Mankind was lost in sin—BUT GOD demonstrated His love.

- Joseph was sold into slavery—BUT GOD intended it for good.
- David was an overlooked shepherd boy—BUT GOD looked at the heart.
- Jesus was laid in a sealed tomb—BUT GOD raised Him from the dead.

Today, I want to open this series by looking at the greatest phrase in all of the Bible "But God".

What is a "But God" moment:

A "but God" moment is a turning point where God steps into a hopeless, impossible, or difficult situation to change the outcome.

No matter how dire a situation appears, these two words signify that God has the final word.

“But God” moments in the Bible are important because they mark the exact turning point where human limits, failure, or tragedy are overcome by divine intervention and grace.

People say "but God" to remind themselves and others that God can step in and change a hopeless or broken human situation.

Why Does They Matter Today:

- It proves God’s character: It reveals God's persistent nature—stepping in out of mercy and love rather than human merit.
- It reminds us that He is An Anchor in suffering: It provides deep encouragement during personal trials, serving as a reminder that an individual's weakness or end of ability is never the end of their story.

This leads me to my first point:

1.A "But God" Moment Interrupts Our Hopeless Reality.

Ephesians 2:1–5 (NIV):

"As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world... All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. (Here's the kicker Church) BUT GOD, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love for us, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved."

Paul doesn't describe humanity as "sick" or "in need of self-improvement." He describes us as

dead. A dead person cannot help themselves. A dead person cannot choose to get better.

- **The Human Condition Without God:** Dead in transgressions, captive to worldly patterns, and unable to initiate our own rescue.
- **The Divine Pivot (Verse 4):** The turning point isn't "But we tried harder" or "But we figured it out." It is "**BUT GOD.**"
- **The Motivation:** God was not motivated by our performance, but by His own character—being *rich in mercy* and motivated by *great love*.

Think of a swimmer caught in an ocean rip current. Trying harder only exhausts them faster. Salvation isn't God tossing an instruction manual on how to swim; it is God diving into the violent

water to lift out a body that has already gone under.

Whatever current situation in your life that feels "dead"—whether a relationship, a spiritual season, or a habit you cannot break—remember that death is the exact environment where God operates best.

What happened before God stepped in does not have to determine what happens after God steps in.

2.A “But God” Moment Sustains You When Everything Around You Collapses.

Psalm 3:1–6 (NIV):

"Lord, how many are my foes! How many rise up against me! Many are saying of me, 'God will not deliver him.' BUT YOU, LORD, are a shield around me, my glory, the One who lifts my head high. I call to the Lord, and He answers me from His holy hill. I lie down and sleep; I wake again, because the Lord sustains me. I will not fear though tens of thousands assail me on every side."

David didn't write this Psalm from a quiet cabin on vacation. He wrote it while fleeing for his life from his own son, Absalom. His family was fractured, his kingdom was revolting, and his reputation was ruined.

The enemy's chief lie in times of collapse is: *"God won't help you this time."*

How does a king running for his life in the wilderness fall asleep? Not because the army disappeared, but because **"the Lord sustains me."**

Sleep in the middle of a battle is proof of divine support. When your external world is in chaos, peace is not the absence of trouble—it is the presence of the Sustainer.

When your circumstances fall apart, God doesn't always calm the storm immediately; often, He sustains *you* in the middle of it so that the storm cannot destroy you.

DAD

3.A “But God” Moment Teaches Us To Expect God In The Impossible

One of the truths I love about Scripture is found in **Luke 18:27:**

“What is impossible with man is possible with God.”

Jesus is teaching us something powerful: **there are situations that may be impossible for us, but there is no situation that is impossible for God.**

That is the heart of a **“But God”** faith.

“BUT GOD” means I can look at my circumstances honestly without allowing my circumstances to become the final authority.

I can say:

“I don't see a way.”

But God says in John 14:6,

“I am the way, and the truth, and the life.”

You may not see the way out... You may not know how God is going to do it... You may not understand what He is doing.

But you don't have to know the way when you know the One who is the Way!

You may be saying:

“It's impossible.”

But God says,

“For nothing will be impossible with God.”

Luke 1:37

Mary was given a promise that was beyond human explanation.

She couldn't make it happen...She couldn't manufacture the miracle...All she could do was **Believe God.**

And sometimes that's where God brings us.

To a place where we finally realize: **“I can't do this by myself...But God”**

Your impossible situation may actually become the stage upon which God's power is revealed.

You say:

“It's over.”

But God says, “I'm not finished.”

This is where “But God” faith becomes powerful.

Because sometimes we look at a situation and make a conclusion based on what we can see.

But Scripture reminds us that **God has the ability to step into situations that look finished.**

Think about Lazarus...by the time Jesus arrived, Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days.

From the human perspective, there was nothing left to do.

The funeral had already happened...The stone was already in place...The body was already in

the tomb...The people had already accepted the reality of death.

“But God” Jesus walked up to the situation everybody else had already declared finished and said:

“Lazarus, come out.”

— John 11:43

And the man who was dead came out alive.

Why?

Because what is impossible with man is possible with God.

That's why we have to be careful about saying **“it's over”** when God hasn't said it's over.

We see the situation...**God sees the purpose.**

We see the problem...**God sees the possibility.**

We see the ending...**God sees what He's about to begin.**

We see the tomb...**God sees resurrection.**

We see a dead end...**God sees a new beginning.**

We see impossibility...**God sees an opportunity to reveal His power.**

Church, Your Circumstances Will Never Stop the Plan God Has For Your Life.

3. A “But God” Moment Doesn't Mean There Won't Be Pain

This is important...because when we preach about “**But God,**” we have to make sure people understand what we're saying.

A “But God” faith is **not** a promise that Christians will never experience hardship.

- It doesn't mean we won't cry.
- It doesn't mean we won't hurt.
- It doesn't mean we won't experience disappointment.
- It doesn't mean we won't have moments when we don't understand what God is doing.
- It doesn't mean we won't walk through difficult seasons.

The Bible never promises us a life without valleys.

In fact, Scripture is very honest about the reality of suffering.

- Joseph still went through the pit.
- David still had to face Goliath.

- Daniel still had to enter the lions' den.
- The three Hebrew boys still had to walk into the fiery furnace.
- Paul still experienced persecution.
- Peter still experienced storms.
- Lazarus still died.
- And Jesus still went to the cross.

Faith does not mean we never walk through difficult places.

Faith means we know God is with us while we walk through them.

The Valley Is Real — But So Is God's Presence

Psalm 23 gives us one of the most beautiful pictures of this truth.

David doesn't say: "Though I never walk through the valley..."

He says:

"Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me..." Psalm 23:4

Notice what David says...He says **"though I walk."**

- That means there will be valleys.
- There will be seasons when the road gets dark.
- There will be moments when you don't know what's around the next corner.
- There will be times when your heart is hurting and you don't understand why.

But David says:

“I will fear no evil.”

Why?

Not because there is no valley.

Not because there is no danger.

Not because everything is going the way he wants it to go.

He says:

“For you are with me.”

That's the difference.

The presence of God changes how you walk through the valley.

You May Be In The Valley Right Now, But You Are Not Alone.

Sometimes we think God's presence means God will immediately remove the valley.

But sometimes God's presence means: **He walks through the valley with us.**

The Hebrew boys went into the fire: **but God was in the fire with them.**

Daniel went into the lions' den: **but God was in the den with him.**

The disciples went into the storm: **but Jesus was in the boat.**

Paul was in prison: **but the presence of God was still with him.**

And somebody needs to hear this today:

Your difficult season does not mean God has abandoned you.

...Your tears don't mean God has left you.

...Your unanswered prayer doesn't mean God has forgotten you.

...Your struggle doesn't mean God has stopped working.

...Sometimes the greatest evidence of God's faithfulness is not that He kept you out of the valley.

It's that He kept you while you were in it.

Sometimes “But God” means:

God brought me through it...Pain Does Not Cancel God's Purpose.

Here's The Hope Of A “But God” Faith:

- The valley may be dark—but God is there.
- The battle may be difficult—but God is there.
- The night may be long—but God is there.
- The tears may fall—but God is there.
- The answer may be delayed—but God is there.
- The situation may not make sense—but God is there.

And if God is with you,
you can keep walking.

Keep trusting.

Keep praying.

Keep believing.

Because you may be walking **through** the valley,
but you are not staying there forever.

There is a Shepherd in the valley.

And if the Shepherd is with you,
the valley cannot have the final word.
“BUT GOD” DOES.

And here's what “But God” faith teaches us:

Faith doesn't always change the situation immediately—but faith changes how we stand in the situation.

I may still be waiting.

I may still be praying.

I may still be crying.

I may still have questions.

I may not have the answer yet.

BUT GOD.

That's my confidence...Not that I understand everything...Not that I can predict what God is going to do...Not that everything will happen according to my timetable.

But my confidence is that **God is still God in the middle of what I don't understand.**

And maybe you're facing something today that looks impossible...**But God.**

Because God has never needed a favorable circumstance to demonstrate His power.

He just needs a situation where He can show up and show that **He is God.**

CLOSING

So church, I want to pose an important question to you today:

What is the situation in your life right now that needs a “**But God**” moment?

- Maybe you're standing in front of something you cannot move.
- Maybe you're looking at something you can't fix.
- Maybe you've prayed and you're still waiting.
- Maybe you're faced with a grave diagnoses.
- Maybe you're in need of a miracle.
- Maybe you're wondering: “**God, where are You?**”

Church let me tell you, Don't mistake **God's silence for God's absence.**

In Genesis chapters 39-40 Joseph couldn't see the palace while he was in the prison.

The disciples couldn't see Sunday while they were standing at the cross on Friday.

Abraham couldn't see Isaac while he was still waiting for the promise.

Sometimes God is working **before you can see what He is doing.**

And this is the faith declaration:

**“I don't know how God is going to do it,
but I know who God is.”**

Because the God who brought Joseph out of the pit...The God who brought Israel through the Red Sea...The God who brought David through the battle...The God who brought Daniel out of the lion's den...The God who brought Lazarus out of

the grave...The God who raised Jesus from the dead...**is still God today.**

And if He is still God...**Church, there is still hope.**

A “But God” moment is not simply about God changing your circumstances.

Sometimes the greatest miracle is that **God changes you while you're waiting for Him to change the circumstances. And in the midst of it:**

- He gives you peace.
- He gives you strength.
- He gives you faith.
- He gives you endurance.

And eventually you will look back and realize:

“I thought that was the end of my story—but God had another chapter.”

So don't stop believing because of what you see.

Don't stop praying because the answer hasn't arrived.

Don't stop trusting because the door hasn't opened.

Don't give up because the situation looks impossible.

Because there is a phrase that heaven has been writing throughout Scripture:

BUT GOD.

And when God enters the story, everything has to change...do you hear me church!!!

Closing Prayer