

The Question: How can I trust God when life seems to be spinning out of control?

- First, do you trust God on His terms?
- Have you accepted His provisions for your salvation? Jesus Christ, His Son?
- Where do hard times come from?
 - ✓ Personal choices?
 - ✓ God?
 - ✓ The careless and malicious acts of other people?
- Are hard times:
 - ✓ A test? An opportunity?
 - ✓ Discipline for rebellion?
 - ✓ A blessing?

You can confidently trust God when times are hard!

- Others have conquered hard times through their trust in God. How? How did they endure hardship, failure, trials, and persecution?
- How did they not only survive, but they thrived saying, "*It is well with my soul.*" ~Horatio Spafford
- You and I can confidently trust God when times are hard.

Perspective #1: When your faith is bigger than your fear of circumstances.

- **Daniel 3:16-18 NLT**—Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.
- What do I do to enlarge my faith if I am trapped in this perspective?
 - ✓ Take time **TODAY** to write down events in your life that point you to God's faithfulness and blessings in your life.
 - ✓ Pray the prayer of the man in **Mark 9:24 NLT** "*I do believe Jesus, but help me overcome my unbelief!*"
 - ✓ Memorize these 6 words: "*For nothing is impossible with God!*" **Luke 1:37 NLT**

Perspective #2: When your faith allows you to see things from God's perspective.

- Jeremiah saw that hard times came from God's judgement upon a rebellious nation.
- **Jeremiah 2:5-6,12-13,17 NLT.**
- What do I do to change my perspective and see things from God's perspective?
 - ✓ Read the story of **Habakkuk** in the Old Testament.
 - ✓ Turn to **Job 38 NLT** and read the list of questions that God is asking Job. Pick out 10 questions and see if you can answer them.
 - ✓ Memorize **Psalms 46:1 NLT** "*God is my refuge and strength, always ready to help in times of trouble.*"

Perspective #3: When your faith allows you to see future reward.

- The Disciples of Jesus were sent out with an expectation of hard times.
- **Matthew 10:16,22,26,40-42 NLT; Galatians 6:9 NLT.**
- What do I do to change my perspective in order to see a future reward?
 - ✓ Think back on your life before you met Christ, and how different your life is now as a follower of Christ. Imagine where you would be without him.
 - ✓ Read **Philippians 3 NLT** this week.
 - ✓ Download the words to the song "*It Is Well With My Soul*" by Horatio Spafford.

The cross has **SECURED** my salvation; the empty tomb has **ENSURED** my salvation!