
How Do We Trust God When Things Go Wrong?



We all know what it feels like when everything seems to be going wrong. Whether we have big or little problems, we may feel that life isn't fair. We may begin to doubt ourselves, our self-worth, and even our relationship with God.

What do we do to regain our peace and confidence?

Or put another way, why is God trustworthy?

The answer is simple and familiar, but nevertheless true—we trust God.

Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. Proverbs 3:5

Trusting in God means that we have a firm belief in Him and His reliability in all circumstances—even when things go haywire. Instead of trusting ourselves or other people, we continue to believe and act on God’s promises through Jesus Christ. Our trust will translate into positive and peaceful living (Isaiah 26:3–4). No matter what happens our confidence rests in God and God alone.

Why can we place our confidence in God? — Why is God trustworthy?

God is worthy of our confidence and trust because of His divine nature. We learn about God’s divine nature and who He is through His Word, the Bible. God never lies, changes character, or fails to keep His promises (Numbers 23:19; Malachi 6). His ways are perfect.

As for God, his way is perfect: The LORD's word is flawless; he shields all who take refuge in him. Psalm 18:30

Things may seem like they’re going all wrong, but in the end—God’s perfect plan will prevail. If we’re believers then God is working things out for our good to make us more like Jesus (Romans 8:28–19). And this is key—*our good means for us to be transformed into the image of Jesus*. If you’re not a believer in Jesus Christ then God is working things out for your good too—it’s called eternal salvation. If you want to learn how to trust Jesus for salvation [click here](#).

When we’re going through crises it becomes harder to believe God has our best interests at heart. He does, you know, have our best interests at heart, but we need to trust and believe that He does. It takes faith.

So, how do we build our faith when “everything” is going wrong?

Here are four suggestions:

First, pray in the Spirit for the situation to be resolved for God’s glory. Recognize it’s our viewpoint that things are all wrong. What is happening may turn out much better for us had we not been going through this difficult situation.

I remember when Anders and I prayerfully decided to go into full-time ministry and sell our large home. After a year and a half, it hadn’t sold—we ended up with no money and \$5,000 worth of bills due. At the right moment God provided the exact amount we needed. Someone came to our home and handed me a white envelope with a check for \$5,000. She told me that God wanted me to have it.

Anders and I wouldn’t have experienced and come to know God in this particular way had we not gone through this tough situation.

“*The Lord Will Provide*” rang true, and we saw firsthand that God is faithful (Genesis 22:14). If you look back over your own life, you will see “wrong things” that turned out for the best. When we look back on God’s faithfulness in the past, we begin to trust Him more in the present.

Write down all the things that you think are going wrong. Consider why you believe they are going wrong. Are the outcomes you desire based on ego or truly for God’s glory? We are created to glorify God and enjoy Him forever. Our mishaps, and even tragedies can be offered up to God as a sacrifice of praise. God wants to be loved, not only for His blessings, but for who He is—no matter what the circumstances.

Second, pray to trust God and live by faith. Faith is both a fruit of the Spirit and a gift of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22; 2 Corinthians 12:8–9). Let's ask God for both in the name of Jesus!

I have stacks of index cards divided according to relevant subjects and recommend this method to you. Look up faith and trust in the concordance at the back of your Bible. Write or print out those verses on the subjects of faith and trust that are meaningful to you and pray through them at various times during the day or evening.

God promises to give us faith!

We honor Him by praying His promises back to Him. We should also confess any unbelief or faithlessness on our part. Here are a few verses to meditate on and pray to the Lord:

Praise be to the LORD, for he has heard my cry for mercy. ⁷The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him, and he helps me. My heart leaps for joy, and with my song I praise him. Psalm 28:6–7

He replied, "Because you have so little faith. Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you." Matthew 17:20

For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed—a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith." Romans 1:17

Third, we have a real enemy named Satan. He and his demons are roaming around trying to mess things up for us. They don't want us to be successful in serving God. If you think this is part of your problems, rely on the Holy Spirit and study spiritual warfare to overcome in battle.

Fourth, and finally, remember that God is sovereign and is working out all things for our eternal good.

What is our eternal good? *To be transformed into the image of Jesus Christ* and spend a blissful eternity with our triune God. Look at life's challenges through the lens of 1 Peter 2:20–21—where we're called to suffer for doing good because Christ suffered for us, leaving us an example, that we should follow in His steps.

Kathleen Skaar
Executive Director



In Jesus Steps is a ministry whose purpose is to share the gospel of Jesus Christ and make disciples worldwide. Jesus modeled the way for discipleship with a small group who practiced accountability, transparency, obedience, and total surrender to God. *In Jesus Steps* follows this model with 3–7 enthusiastic believers forming teams to follow in His steps daily. Please visit our website to start your own discipleship team. <https://injesussteps.org/>

How to Know God Personally

If you'd like to understand and have a personal relationship with God, please click the link and read the steps to knowing God.

[Steps to knowing God](#)