

## **WHEN GOD DOESN'T MOVE**

### **Introduction**

In Jeremiah 32:27, God asks the prophet a question, "Is there anything too hard for me?" In posing this question, He encourages Jeremiah that He has all power over all of creation. No matter how challenging or unimaginable a circumstance may appear, God is able! Whether He worked the miracles by Himself, or He used a servant or a prophet, He smote entire armies, raised the dead, delivered from prison, healed broken bodies, opened blinded eyes, provided provision from heaven, etc. There are so many other miracles that have been performed that often go unrecognized to His believers. To conclude with the greatest of all miracles, He provided salvation with the one-time sacrifice of Jesus, which has been in effect for nearly 2,000 years. Jesus states what the scriptures confirm, and that is, "with God all things are possible." (Matthew 19:26). With all that is being testified to in this introduction, it's important to state that, though He can, He doesn't always move when His people desire for Him to!

**Memory Verse:** II Corinthians 12:9 And he said unto me, "My grace is sufficient for thee": for my strength is made perfect in weakness". Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

### **Biblical Application**

A misconception in certain segments of the body of Christ is that God will heal and/or correct every situation one may encounter. He is not subject to HIS believer's wants, will, and desires. His believers are also subject to the human condition just like anyone else who exists on this earth. Some of the greatest individuals who have walked this earth have had some of the worst situations that hit their lives. We're reminded in scripture that God is sovereign! Nothing takes Him by surprise, nor catches Him off guard. He has infinite knowledge and awareness, and has the right to move, or not move as He sees fit. To navigate through those seasons, or circumstances that can befall the believer, it is important to not become offended and charge God foolishly. To trust Him even when He seems far away. Job 23:10

says, "But he knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold."

- The children were killed. Job 1:16-19
- The fast didn't stop it. II Samuel 12:15-19
- The miracle worker became ill. II Kings 13:14
- GOD didn't change HIS mind about it. Deuteronomy 3:21-26; II Corinthians 12:7-9; Matthew 26:36-42
- They were murdered. Matthew 14:3-10; Acts 7:55-60, 12:1-2
- The proper attitude and response. Job 1:20-22; Daniel 3:17-18; Mark 14:34-39

### **Everyday Life Application**

It is important not to be moved by feelings, but by the word of God. Testimonies of others who have gone through can also be a great tool. For it is the testimony of others and the scriptures that give courage and strength to navigate through difficult and/or evil days. There is great comfort in the Word of God!

Author: Bishop James Taylor, Jr.

## **BRINGING IN THE SHEAVES**

### **Introduction**

Psalm 126:1-6 When the Lord turned again the captivity of Zion, we were like them that dream. Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with singing: then said they among the heathen, The Lord hath done great things for them. The Lord hath done great things for us; whereof we are glad. Turn again our captivity, O Lord, as the streams in the south. They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him.

**Memory Verse:** Psalm 126:6 He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him.

### **Biblical Application**

Man, that is born of a woman is of a few days and full of trouble (Job 14:1), however, God's words give us consolation in Psalms 126:6 if we go forth weeping, bearing precious seed, we shall doubtless come again rejoicing. The writer paints a picture that if you take seeds with you into trouble, you won't come out bare, but with a harvest. Sheaves in the Old Testament were a bundle of grain; in the New Testament, the harvest is spiritual! In nature, a seed is defined as a mature ovule that comprises an embryo or a miniature, undeveloped plant and food reserves, all enclosed within a protective seed coat. Seeds are a way of reproduction for all flowering plants. Every seed can grow into a new plant under proper environmental conditions, such as the right temperature, moisture, and sunlight (byjus.com). Spiritually speaking, we carry within us the spirit of the living God. In him is the transforming power that allows us to live through the roughest seasons of our lives. His word is spirit and life (John 6:63). As we go forth into circumstances that cause us to weep, be encouraged to know we shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing His traits with us!

- Sow in tears, reap in joy. Psalms 66:1-12; Isaiah 61:1-6; Psalms 30: 1-12; Job 1:21-22, 42:10:17; John: 16:19-22
- Spiritual Sheaves Romans 5:1-5; James 1: 1-4; II Corinthian 4: 5-11, 17; Job 23:10; Revelation 7: 13-17

### **Everyday Life Application**

It is easy to feel like the night season will not end; however, God, in his word, encourages us to know otherwise. Let this lesson serve as a reminder that joy does come in the morning.

Author: Evangelist Patricia Powell

Source: <https://byjus.com/biology/seed-definition/>

**WORRY, STRESS, AND ANXIETY**

**Introduction**

Anna worked for a fairly large company. She was an outstanding and dedicated employee for over 25 years. Anna had great performance reviews and earned performance awards. One month ago, at a company meeting, the business owners announced that they would have to dismiss over 500 employees across the nation and downsize. The business owner went a step further and named specific positions, including Anna's position, that would be targeted for layoffs. As the days passed, Anna found herself growing anxious about the possibility of being laid off. She began to worry about whether she would have a job. She wondered how long her savings and possible severance would cover her mortgage, health insurance, car insurance and other expenses. She felt pressured to begin looking for other positions with similar benefits. One evening, Anna began to feel so overwhelmed by what could happen that she began to cry, and then she prayed.

**Memory Verse:** Philippians 4:6 Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

**Biblical Application**

Throughout our lives, situations will arise that can cause us to worry or have anxiety. The death of a loved one, lack of job security, loss or reduction in income, unresolved family issues, health issues, or other challenging situations can cause stress. Unmanaged stress can result in headaches, high blood pressure, chest pains, fatigue, and muscle tension. Stress can also affect your mood and behavior and can cause us to overeat, be sad, grumpy, and have outbursts.

The Bible encourages us to forsake worrying about the cares of the world (e.g., anxiety over your future, riches, daily provision, etc.) and make our needs known to God through prayer and supplication with thanksgiving. We will all have to deal with issues of life. It's inevitable. How we cope with those issues is dependent upon your faith in God and your obedience to his guidance. This lesson encourages us to follow biblically sound guidance to avoid or overcome worry, stress, and anxiety.

- Do not worry about the cares of the world. Matthew 13:3, 7, 22; Luke 10:38-42, 12:22-31, 21:34; I Peter 5:7
- In challenging situations, people prayed and cried out to God. I Samuel 1:9-10, 27; II Kings 19:14-19; Matthew 14:24-31; Luke 22:41-44
- Pray when worried, stressed, or anxious. Philippians 4:6; Matthew 7:7-11; Luke 18:1-8

- Conditions for effective prayer. II Chronicles 7:14; Jeremiah 29:13; Mark 11:24-26; James 5:16; I John 3:22

### **Everyday Life Application**

In times of uncertainty, you may be tempted to worry, stress, or be anxious. How can hearing or reading testimonies of God's faithfulness help you overcome or avoid worry, stress, and anxiety? What testimonies helped you?

Author: Evangelist Sophia Eaves

**GOD CREATED****Introduction**

God is exalted as the sovereign Creator from the first sentence of Scripture through the last book of the Bible. The Hebrew word bara 1254 and the Greek word ktízō 2936 are translated into the English word create (Strong's Dictionary). Both terms apply only to God; who alone can make what was not present before (Helps Word Studies). Strong's Lexicon defines bara as signifying the initiation of something new, which implies creation ex nihilo or out of nothing and underscores God's sovereignty and omnipotence. In the beginning, is used to reference the point at which God began his creation. However, God is not limited to time. He has no beginning nor end, even from everlasting to everlasting thou art God (Psalm 90: 2).

**Memory Verse:** Genesis 1:1 In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

**Biblical Application**

The New Testament reveals God the Creator in more detail as Jesus Christ. It describes Jesus Christ as the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth. All things were created by him and for him (Colossians 1:15-16). The Lord is worthy to receive glory and honour, he created all things, and for his pleasure they are and were created (Revelation 4:11). God ended his work which he had made on the 7th day (Genesis 2:2). Each of the 7 days detailed in Genesis 1-2 consisted of an evening and a morning. The literal 7-day period of creation in Genesis disproves the theory of macroevolution, the Big Bang theory, and any other lie stating that creation occurred over millions of years. Such theories attempt to exalt the creation over the Creator and take glory from God. God even created the dust of the ground that he used to form man (Genesis 2:7). God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them (Genesis 1:27, Matthew 19:4). All things, including man were created by him, for him, for his pleasure and for his glory.

- God is creator. Genesis 1:1-2, 2:4-7; Colossians 1:13-20; John 1:5

- God created in six days and rested on the seventh. Genesis 1:3-2:1-3; Exodus 20: 8-11, 31:12-17
- The Lord created man in his image and gave him dominion. Genesis 1:27-28; Psalm 139:13-18

### **Everyday Life Application**

What does the dominion that God gave man include? Discuss how man has used the dominion and free-will that were given to him in relationship and rebellion with the Lord.



**FAMILY, FRIEND, OR FOE****Introduction**

The creation story in Genesis highlights the inherent human need for relationships. When God considered Adam, He declared, "It is not good for the man to be alone" (Genesis 2:18). God desires that we establish relationships, first with Him and then with one another. While relationships are central to the human experience, not all are healthy, nor do they all contribute positively to our spiritual lives. We must discern which relationships to nurture, avoid, or set boundaries with. The complexities of relationships can blur the lines between love and loyalty, trust and betrayal, making it difficult to discern who truly supports us. By evaluating our connections through a biblical lens, we can better distinguish between healthy and harmful relationships and identify who is truly a family member, friend, or foe based on character, actions, and alignment with godly principles.

**Memory Verse:** Matthew 12:48 But he answered and said unto him that told him, Who is my mother? and who are my brethren?

**Biblical Application**

In Matthew 12:48, Jesus challenges us to rethink our views on relationships, loyalty, and spiritual identity. When told that His family was waiting to speak with Him, Jesus redirected the focus from earthly ties to a deeper connection rooted in obedience to God's will. His response prompts us to evaluate the nature of our relationships. While relationships are generally positive, they can also be imperfect and lead to conflict, as demonstrated by the friendship between Paul and Silas, whose disagreement led to their separation. Their experience shows us that some relationships are seasonal rather than long-term. Additionally, relationships can be sources of emotional pain and spiritual attack, with the deepest hurts often coming from those we trust the most. We should also redefine our understanding of family, recognizing that spiritual kinship is not determined by bloodlines but by alignment with God's will. Those who are blood-related are not necessarily faith-related. Jesus emphasizes that spiritual obedience takes precedence over biological ties. Therefore, we should consider whether our loyalties are based on blood ties or

shared faith and obedience to God. Next, we must evaluate our friendships to distinguish true companions from negative influences. While "friend" is often used loosely today, a true friend exhibits Christ-like qualities such as love, honesty, reliability, and support. Also, not everyone we consider a friend is good company or encourages our spiritual growth; some may be corruptors. We should carefully consider our associations and choose friends who are godly sources of companionship. Finally, it's important to recognize when Satan's influence is at play through those around us. We must be cautious of individuals who may want to connect with us but have deceptive and harmful intentions. We should ask God to reveal their true motives and evade those who harbor ill will towards us, as Jesus did (John 7:1).

- Relationships are not always perfect. Acts 15:36-39
- Relationships, a source of pain and spiritual attack. Genesis 37:23-28; II Samuel 15:10-14; Psalm 41:9; Matthew 16:21-23
- Spiritual family is defined by mutual obedience and shared faith in God. Matthew 12:48-50; II Corinthians 6:14-18
- Your natural family may oppose your faith. Matthew 10:34-37
- Characteristics of a true friend. I Samuel 18:1-3; Proverbs 17:17, 18:24, 27:5-6; John 15:13
- Avoid corrupting relationships. Proverbs 13:20, 26:24-26; I Corinthians 15:33; James 4:4
- Recognizing our opposition. Matthew 7:15-20; Ephesians 6:12

### **Everyday Life Application**

Are there instances where friends or family also act as enemies? Take time to reevaluate your relationships and seek God's guidance on which connections to pursue, establish boundaries, or refrain from.

Author: Elder Desmond Fain