



HOW DO I FIND PEACE WITH MY SITUATION?

No matter what your situation, if you put it in God's hands and thank Him, he will turn it around. He will take the darkest of times and let the Light of His Son Jesus Christ wipe away the darkness. Never forget to thank and praise God for everything, whether you feel it is good or bad.

Romans 8:28-30 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.

Psalms 37:5-7 Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him and he will do this: He will make your righteousness shine like the dawn, the justice of your cause like the noonday sun. Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him; do not fret when men succeed in their ways, when they carry out their wicked schemes.

Isaiah 26:3 You will keep in perfect peace him whose mind is steadfast, because he trusts in you.

Isaiah 26:11-13 O LORD, your hand is lifted high, but they do not see it. Let them see your zeal for your people and be put to shame; let the fire reserved for your enemies consume them. LORD, you establish peace for us; all that we have accomplished you have done for us. O LORD, our God, other lords besides you have ruled over us, but your name alone do we honor.

Isaiah 26:19 But your dead will live; their bodies will rise. You, who dwell in the dust, wake up and shout for joy. Your dew is like the dew of the morning; the earth will give birth to her dead.

Hebrews 4:9-11 There remains, then, a Sabbath-rest for the people of God; for anyone who enters God's rest also rests from his own work, just as God did from his. Let us, therefore, make every effort to enter that rest, so that no one will fall by following their example of disobedience.

Matthew 6:33-34 But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

Now let us take a look at some suffering people in the Bible.

Job (Job 1-42)

- Identity--a godly and wealthy man who lived some 4,000 years ago (1:1-5).
- Affliction--loss of property, death of children, painful skin disease (1:13-19; 2:1-10).
- Source of Affliction--Satan with God's permission (1:12; 2:6).
- Reason for Affliction--testing and refining (1:6-12; 2:1-10; 23:10).
- Result of Affliction--greater knowledge of God and understanding of self (42:1-6).
- Lesson--God and Satan may both be involved in the sending of our afflictions (Job 1:12; 2:6).

Miriam (Ex. 15:20-21; Num. 12; 26:59)

- Identity--sister of Moses and Aaron.
- Affliction--leprosy.
- Source--God.
- Reason--chastening for rebellion.
- Result--repentance, healing, restoration.
- Lesson--God sometimes uses suffering to chasten His disobedient children.

Ezekiel's wife (Ezek. 24:15-27)

- Identity--wife of a major prophet.
- Affliction--her illness and death.
- Source--God.
- Reason--To illustrate God's dealings with the nation of Israel.
- Result--God was glorified (implied).
- Lesson--God sometimes uses suffering and even death to accomplish His purposes.

Mephibosheth (2 Sam. 4:4; 9)

- Identity--young grandson of King Saul.
- Affliction--crippled through a fall.
- Source--not given.
- Reason--not given.
- Result--lifetime affliction with no cure provided.
- Lesson--God doesn't always tell us the reason for our suffering.

Paul (2 Cor. 12:1-10)

- Identity--the great apostle to the Gentiles.
- Affliction--a thorn in the flesh (an unidentified physical malady).
- Source--a gift from God (implied) and a "messenger of Satan."
- Reason--to keep Paul from exalting himself because of his unique spiritual experiences.
- Result--the thorn remained with Paul in spite of his prayers for deliverance but became a blessing because it increased his dependence on the Lord.
- Lesson--God doesn't always bring temporal healing, even to His most devoted children.

Philippians 4:11-13 I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do everything through him who gives me strength.

Use your heart to look for God's answers to your prayers. Try to understand what He is doing through you. God does not put us in these bad situations but He will use the situation that we are in. He may be strengthening your faith, He may be using the situation to bring a member of your family closer to Him, or He may be using you as a witness to others. Whatever the reason know that He always has a plan.