

Why NOT me Lord?

# Why NOT Me Lord?

- ❖ Others are healed from illness. Why not me?
  - ❖ Others receive miracles. Why not me?
  - ❖ Others live trouble free lives. Why not me?

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# Why NOT me Lord?

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## INTRODUCTION

C. S. Lewis said: *“Life with God is not immunity from difficulties, but peace within difficulties.”* Understanding is often the pathway to that peace, so let’s do our best to achieve it.

Knowing that God is all-knowing (omniscient), everywhere present (omnipresent), and all-powerful (omnipotent) is very comforting, until trouble or sickness comes to your life. You pray fervently. You pray often. You pray with faith, but nothing changes. Suddenly you feel like you are forced with a choice between a number of possibilities. These are normal thoughts for people who don’t have a clear understanding of God and life as we now live it, but they are deceptive thoughts. Whether developed in our own mind or spawned by Satan, they can chip away at our relationship with God. These are some of those thoughts:

- Perhaps, God just doesn’t do miracles anymore. But you’ve heard of Him doing it for others, so that can’t be it.

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- Your circumstance or situation is too difficult for God. But you know He is all-powerful, so that can't be it.
- God doesn't care enough about you personally to do a miracle for you. This kind of thinking makes you feel like a second-class citizen in God's economy. This is a dangerous place to be spiritually.
- Despite your prayerful soul searching, you conclude that you must either lack faith or have some terrible sin in your life that has caused God to desert you. This is another dangerous place to land.

## WHY BAD THINGS HAPPEN TO GOOD PEOPLE

Explaining this is a process. I'll try to make it as easy as possible to follow as possible.

Adam and Eve were given a perfect world to live in. It was awesome, and God gave them dominion over it all. It was their perfect world to enjoy.

For God and man to have a perfect relationship, they both had to desire it. Man had to have free-will. Without mutual desire it wouldn't be a true relationship. So, God said to Adam, even before Eve was created, something like this: *'Adam, there's a tree in the middle of the garden. It's called the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. As long as you don't eat the fruit of that tree I will know that you desire to be in a relationship with me, but if you eat it you will die. Our relationship will be broken.'* To make a long story short, Satan did what he does best. He lied to Eve. Eve knew full well what God had told her husband. Now, Adam and Eve had a different choice to make; believe God or believe Satan. The lie was appealing, and they chose to believe it. They ate from the *'tree of the knowledge of good*

*and evil*, the relationship between God and man was severed, and the heart of God was broken.

God had told Adam that if they made that choice, they would surely die. That part of the punishment is two-fold.

1. The body will die. In **Genesis 3:19**, God said: *“for dust you are and to dust you will return.”* This normally happens as a result of illness, old age, or accident.
2. Man is more than a body. At the birth of every person they are given an immortal spirit and soul. It is immortal, but dead because of sin. What that means is that it is born separated from the creator and giver of life - Father God. That separation is spiritual death. That’s exactly why Jesus taught that *“Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water (physical birth) and the Spirit (spiritual birth). 6 Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. 7 You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘You must be born again.’”* (**John 3:5-7**). The reason we must be born again is because, when man is born physically, the spirit is still-born. It is dead inside us and can only come alive through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as our personal Saviour which is expressed by establishing Him as the Lord of our life.

Other results of Adam and Eve’s choice to separate themselves from their creator were:

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- Women would experience great pain in child birth
- Women's relationship with man would become competitive and would experience less of the joy made possible through the perfect harmony in the roles and purposes God had established for each of them
- Men's work would become hard labour
- The ground would produce weeds, thorns and thistles
- Adam and Eve were removed from the Garden of Eden and could no longer enjoy the intimate fellowship with God that they were accustomed to

Perhaps the greatest impact of Adam and Eve's sin is that it has been passed down from generation to generation. Theologians refer to Adam as the Federal Head of man. This helps us understand why Adam's sin affected every human being that descended from him, which is all of us. When a Federal government makes a decision or establishes a law, it affects every individual within its range of influence. In the same way, Adam's sin affected every individual in his influence – all of his descendants. That means that every one of us experience the same punishment for Adam's sin as he did. Women who have had children and men who have had colds could attest to that (apparently the suffering is pretty much equal).

The problem is that Adam and Eve's sin tainted our human nature. As I said, we are all born spiritually dead, and as a result we have an internal conflict. We were created in God's image, so we all have the ability to be loving, good, kind, merciful, gracious, and even righteous. On the other hand, the nature of man has been tainted by sin. We are all sinners. So, in varying degrees we are all good and we are all sinful. Selfishness is normal to every human being. Our nature is like a car out of alignment. Without intentionally correcting the steering, there is a natural tendency to go to the right or to the left. In the same way, our sinful nature wants to do what appeals to self, more than it wants to please God. So we all have sinned on our own, and therefore we all deserve the same punishment as our forefather. The Apostle Paul said: "There is no one righteous, not even one" (Romans 3:10). And "...*all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God*" (**Romans 3:23, NIV**).

Now, with that knowledge, keep in mind that we live in a world surrounded by nearly 8 billion people, all of which were born sinful. Their decisions often impact us. Maybe someone really enjoys driving fast with no regard to the speed limit or those around him or her on the highway. While driving fast, they make an error in judgment and seriously injure or kill someone in an accident. It could also be a drunk driver, or someone high on drugs. Maybe the person injured was a Christian. Is that God's fault? No. It's a result of living

in a world with sinful, selfish people.

If you are a Christian, but your spouse is not, you may be restricted in your desire to serve God fully or to follow a specific calling. Is that God's fault? No. It's a result of being partnered with someone with different desires, goals, and priorities in life.

Mankind has been given dominion over the earth, and we have chosen to fill our air and food with chemicals that make people sick, cause cancer, and other illnesses that are potentially lethal. Is that God's fault? No. It's a result of living in a world run by sinful people.

Even the earth and everything in it was impacted by sin. Various viruses and illnesses have developed over time. Is that God's fault? No. It's a result of living in a sinful world.

It is obvious from early writings that people have been born with physical and mental disabilities throughout the millennia. The Bible speaks of people that were born blind, deaf, and lame. Obviously the presence of sin can cause genetic imperfections, which again can be passed on generationally. Our bodies aren't as perfect as Adam and Eve's were when they were created. Nothing is perfect anymore since sin entered the earth. Is that God's fault? No. It is a result of living in a world impacted by sin.

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So living in a sinful world, very unlike what God ever intended for His creation, is not always fair. We are impacted by so many people and negative influences around us. It wasn't God's doing, and it wasn't God's desire for us. It's all because God wanted a real relationship with humanity, so He gave us a choice. Eve, along with Adam – our federal head – chose to give up that relationship for selfish desire. The end result has been catastrophic for all of humanity. Because of sin, both ours and that of those around us, bad things happen to good people.

Don't worry. There's a fix!

## CALVARY FIXED EVERYTHING

God immediately developed a plan to reverse the effects of Adam and Eve's decision. Even though their choice impacted us all, it would only be fair for every individual to have a choice of their own. While Adam and Eve were born in a perfect world, but chose to sin; we are born in a sinful world and have the opportunity to choose righteousness. That righteousness is found in the sacrifice of a perfect life. His Name is Jesus. *"It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption."* (1 Corinthians 1:30, NIV).

The damage of sin was done; but God put a plan in place to make it reversible. The prophet Isaiah spoke of Jesus and His death as if it had already happened. *"Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted.*

*5 But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.*

*6 We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.*

*7 He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth.” (Isaiah 53:4-7)*

***Jesus, and what He did at Calvary, was the antidote for sin and all of its effects.*** It was the antidote for sickness and disease. It was the antidote for cancer. It was the antidote for birth defects. It was antidote for pain. It was the antidote for emotional suffering. It was the antidote for poverty, and unfair treatment. On and on we could go. It was the antidote for death.

If we place our faith in Him, and what He did for us, every one of the impacts of sin on the world and the people in it will be reversed. That affect is immediate the moment our spirit comes alive in us. It is immediate upon being ‘born again’. A perfect life in a perfect world is now ours; just wait and see.

## THE FUTURE ISN'T HERE YET

As believers, born again by the Spirit of God breathing life into our spirit, we are citizens of heaven. *“But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.”* **(Philippians 3:20-21, NIV).**

Our citizenship is there, but we don't live there yet. It's being made ready for us. Jesus told His disciples: *“In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.”* **(John 14:2, KJV).** The Apostle John wrote: *“Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.”* **(1 John 3:2, NIV)**

The perfect life is ours. It is a life with no sickness, disease or pain – physical or emotional. It is a life with no reason to shed a tear. It is a perfect life with perfect people. It's a life like what Adam and Eve were given in the Garden of Eden. It's the life you dream of;

and Christ has paid the price so that we could have that life. As Christians, we own it. We are citizens of that world. We just haven't moved in yet. The Apostle Paul described our future this way: *"However, as it is written: 'What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived' — the things God has prepared for those who love him."* (1 Corinthians 2:9, NIV). And John the apostle, in his revelation of Christ, saw this in his vision: *"Then I saw 'a new heaven and a new earth,' for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. 2 I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.*

*3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, 'Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. 4 He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.'*

*5 He who was seated on the throne said, 'I am making everything new!'" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."* (Revelation 21:1-5, NIV)

God has reversed all of the effects of sin for the Christian. We just have to endure the challenges of a fallen world a little while longer. Soon we will be moving home. *"To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God."* (Revelation 2:7, NIV)

## IN THE MEANTIME

So what about now? What benefit is there to being a Christian while still in this body, in a world impacted by sin?

In addition to the great hope we have of our new and eternal life, Jesus gave us **the Holy Spirit**. I learn from this passage that the Spirit's job is to give to us wisdom, revelation, hope, power and strength. *"I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better.*

*18 I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, 19 and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength 20 he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms."* (Ephesians 1:17-20, NIV)

The Greek word translated "advocate" or "comforter" in this passage is 'paracletos'. It literally means to 'walk alongside'. *"And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate (comforter, to walk alongside) to*

*help you and be with you forever—17 the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. (John 14:16-17, NIV).* God has not left us alone to deal with the struggles that life in this sinful world presents us. He walks alongside us. In fact He lives within us. He gives us wisdom, revelation, hope, power, strength and comfort from the inside out. He is always with us. He is always in us. We are never alone.

The other thing we have in this life is **purpose**. We have eternal work to do. Our situations in life, that most may deem negative, just may provide us the opportunity to minister to people that we would never touch otherwise. It is imperative that we look for those opportunities. Without Christ, people live and they die. It seems so meaningless. In 2 or 3 generations even their family will not remember their first name. As Christians, however, we have been employed by the King of kings to impact the lives of others for eternity. *“All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: 19 that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people’s sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. 20 We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ’s behalf: Be reconciled to God. (2 Corinthians 5:18-20, NIV)*

## COMPARE THE RIGHT THINGS

Have you ever looked around you and wondered why the non-Christians, or less devoted Christians seem to have a better, more prosperous, and more peaceful life than you? Asaph did. Asaph was one of King David's worship leaders (**1 Chronicles 6:39, NIV**). He was a skilled musician, and credited with writing **Psalm 50** and **Psalm 73-83**.

In **Psalm 73**, Asaph woke up one morning with a struggle. Here it is: *"Surely God is good to Israel, to those who are pure in heart. 2 But as for me, my feet had almost slipped; I had nearly lost my foothold. 3 For I envied the arrogant when I saw the prosperity of the wicked. 4 They have no struggles; their bodies are healthy and strong. 5 They are free from common human burdens; they are not plagued by human ills."* (**Psalm 73:1-5, NIV**).

That is a very natural, human, but short-sighted view of reality. When we skip down a few verses, we can learn a great lesson. Don't judge God, and the things He is doing in your life by the external or the temporal. Judge them by the eternal. Here is Asaph's conclusion: *"When I tried to understand all this, it troubled me deeply 17 till*

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*I entered the sanctuary of God; then I understood their final destiny.*

*18 Surely you place them on slippery ground; you cast them down to ruin. 19 How suddenly are they destroyed, completely swept away by terrors! 20 They are like a dream when one awakes; when you arise, Lord, you will despise them as fantasies.*

*21 When my heart was grieved and my spirit embittered, 22 I was senseless and ignorant; I was a brute beast before you. 23 Yet I am always with you; you hold me by my right hand. 24 You guide me with your counsel, and afterward you will take me into glory.*

*25 Whom have I in heaven but you? And earth has nothing I desire besides you. 26 My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever. 27 Those who are far from you will perish; you destroy all who are unfaithful to you.*

*28 But as for me, it is good to be near God. I have made the Sovereign LORD my refuge; I will tell of all your deeds. (Psalm 73:16-28, NIV)*

My memory of the words to this chorus goes back as far as my memory of attending church as a family when I was a child.

*Turn your eyes upon Jesus  
Look full in His wonderful face  
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim  
In the light of His glory and grace*

Asaph figured out that by changing his view of things, it changed the outcome of His judgment of God and God's dealings with him.

First, there was the issue of eternity. *“till I entered the sanctuary of God; then I understood their final destiny.”* (**Psalm 73:17, NIV**). He wasn't gloating when he realized that all of the good things, including good health that others seemed to enjoy, were merely temporal. But, he came to the stark realization that his suffering, whatever it was, would end when he entered God's eternal kingdom. There, he would have a body that would never suffer sickness or pain (physical or emotional) again. He would never have a reason to shed another tear, and he would live in a perfect world full of God's goodness to a degree that is beyond one's wildest imaginations. On the other hand, all of the good things that those around him were enjoying would last until their death at best. Then, if they were not in relationship with God, suffering would be their lot for eternity. Looking beyond time and into eternity puts everything into perspective.

Then he came to the realization that he had something he couldn't put a value on. He never had to face a problem, or challenge, alone. God was beside him, holding him by the hand through every challenge. *“Yet I am always with you; you hold me by my right hand. 24 You guide me with your counsel, and afterward you will take me*

*into glory.” (Psalm 73:23-24, NIV).* No matter how wealthy others are, how healthy they are, no matter how carefree their life seems to be; it isn’t always that way. We live in a world impacted by sin. Remember? At some point the sinful people around them will make decisions that will negatively affect their lives. At some point, sickness will come to them. At some point they will have to deal with grief and loss. But, they will have to deal with it alone. Asaph looked beyond the obvious and into the spiritual realm; and realized that the presence of God that provided constant direction, strength, and comfort was worth far more than the things vermin, moths and rust would eventually destroy. Looking beyond the tangible and into the eternal, and the spiritual, puts everything into perspective.

Finally, Asaph took a look at the things he truly valued. Asaph loved God more than anything, or anyone on this earth. His temporary suffering simply distracted him from that, but when he stopped himself and considered his values, he came to this conclusion: *“Whom have I in heaven but you? And earth has nothing I desire besides you.” (Psalm 73:25, NIV)* Everything on this earth will eventually come to an end. It will all fade. Even our physical bodies. God, however, will never change and is wonderfully eternal. Asaph looked past his desire for temporary blessings, and realized that his relationship with God was of far greater value. His relationship with God would never come to an end.

If, when facing illness or trials, you are tempted to look at the lives of others, make sure you look past time and into eternity. Make sure you look beyond the tangible and into the spiritual. And, make sure you look beyond your relationship with things that are temporal and look at your relationship with the One who is eternal. Like with Asaph, changing your view puts everything into proper perspective.

## UNANSWERED PRAYER

Certainly, living in a fallen world means that life here is going to be imperfect. That is the answer to most of our struggles. But sometimes we have created our own roadblocks to the solution. Sometimes we are the reason a prayer isn't being answered.

It is not my intent to lay a guilt trip on anyone who is dealing with health issues or struggles in life. It happens in this sin-sick world. At the same time, the Bible does speak of things in our life that could be a hindrance to our prayers. I will list some of them briefly. It doesn't hurt to do a little introspection.

1. **We either don't ask, or we ask with wrong motive**

**James 4:2b-3 (NIV)** *You do not have because you do not ask God. 3 When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.*

2. **We don't pray in the will of God**

Our first prayer should always be for a revelation

of God's will so we can pray accordingly. At the very least, it would be an expression of submission to His will as Jesus did: "*Not my will, but Thine be done.*" (**Matthew 26:42; KJV**)

**1 John 5:14-15 (NIV)** *This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. 15 And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him.*

### 3. We doubt that God will answer

**James 1:6-8 (NIV)** *But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. 7 That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. 8 Such a person is double-minded and unstable in all they do.*

(See also **Matthew 21:22, Mark 11:24, Hebrews 11:6**)

### 4. We are not in a relationship with God

**John 15:7 (NIV)** *If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.*

### 5. Unconfessed intentional sin

**Psalms 66:18 (NIV)** *If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened*

**Isaiah 59:2 (NIV)** *But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will*

*not bear.*

(See also: **Proverbs 28:9, John 9:31, Proverbs 15:29, 1 Peter 3:12**)

## 6. **Unforgiveness**

**Mark 11:25 (NIV)** *And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive them, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins.*

**Matthew 6:14 (NIV)** *For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.*

## 7. **Not caring for your spouse**

**1 Peter 3:7 (NIV)** *Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers.*

## PRAYER FOR OTHERS

Sometimes we pray for loved ones, family members or friends, about issues that involve them making a choice. I'm not talking about illness, disability or disease. I'm talking about relationship issues, addictions, how they deal with the struggles of life, and even salvation.

Many people cling to **Acts 16:31** as a biblical promise of salvation for their family. It reads like this: "They replied, *"Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household."* This passage was not a promise, but a prophecy, and it was specific to one family. It was a prophecy for the Philippian jailer that was present when an earthquake broke Paul, Silas and others free from their chains. To extract a line of Scripture like this from its context, and turn it into a promise for every family member, can do nothing but lead us to unrealistic expectations of God.

Certainly, we should pray for the salvation of our family and friends. We should pray for their deliverance

from addictions and for their relationships, etc. We need to pray that the blinders Satan has put over their spiritual eyes be removed. *“The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.”* (2 **Corinthians 4:4, NIV**).

But, let’s not forget what we talked about earlier. God wants real relationships, and that requires that every individual has freewill. The Holy Spirit will respond to your prayers for those individuals. The variable is: “Will those individuals respond to the Holy Spirit?” That is not something we can control, or that God will control. When our friends or loved ones don’t accept Christ, accept his strength to overcome the challenges in their life, or follow His direction; we cannot blame God. It is a choice they have to make.

## IT'S A VERY BIG PUZZLE

Imagine spreading out the pieces of an 8-billion-piece puzzle on your kitchen table. They are living pieces, constantly moving around on their own. But still, every piece has to go in the right place at the right time. If you can imagine that, you begin to understand the challenge of being God.

We sometimes wonder about events in the Scripture. For example, the crippled beggar healed by Peter and John at the Temple gate. He was crippled by birth and regularly begged for money in that same place. Jesus had, no doubt, walked by that man numerous times. Why didn't He heal him? Why didn't Jesus rush to Lazarus' home and heal him before he died. Why did he sleep when the storm was raging on the Sea of Galilee? We could go on, and on, and on, and on. Hindsight provides us with some of the answers, but certainly not all.

Working out the details of nearly 8 billion people, each with their own free will and each with a sinful nature, in a manner that gets as many people to heaven as possible is a task with a magnitude far bigger than you

or I could possibly fathom. That's why God said through Isaiah: **“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the LORD.” (Isaiah 55:8, NIV)**. The last thing we should ever want, because of that lack of understanding, is our own way. Solomon, who was a fairly intelligent guy, said: *“There is a way that appears to be right, but in the end it leads to death.” (Proverbs 14:12, NIV)*. He understood that we are sheep and we need a Shepherd, or we will get ourselves into trouble.

There are issues of timing. Solomon also wrote: *“He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end.” (Ecclesiastes 3:11, NIV)*. We live in a pocket of time. God lives above time. He sees the big picture when the puzzle is completed. We don't. As a result, He knows the best time to do the right things. We want what we want 'now'. God has to put this huge puzzle together one piece at a time and each piece must go in the right order. Earlier in Ecclesiastes 3, Solomon showed his understanding of life. There are constantly what seem to be negatives and positives in life, but in the end God makes everything beautiful. God doesn't cause the negatives. That is part of living in this fallen world, but He can turn them into positives at the right time.

Another issue is that God prioritizes the spiritual. He would rather keep you fruitful on earth, spiritually vital, and ready for heaven than for you to have perfect health and a perfect life on earth. The Apostle Paul understood from experience. *“...in order to keep me from becoming conceited, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. 8 Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. 9 But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me. 10 That is why, for Christ’s sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.”* (2 **Corinthians 12:7b-10, NIV**)

## CONCLUSION

Our challenge is this:

- Don't let living in this fallen world cause you to lose faith. Satan may be the prince of this world, but God is the God of this universe. He is all-knowing and all-powerful.
- Don't stop praying and believing for something unless you hear God say 'no'. It may be a matter of timing.
- Be willing to submit to God's will. Understand that getting your own way can be a very dangerous thing.
- Be an ambassador, a minister of reconciliation.

Better things are coming. A perfect world, free of all of the challenges we face in this life, lies ahead for every believer. Soon, we will all enjoy the full benefits of our redemption. Praise the Lord!