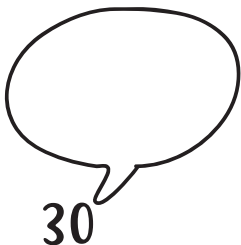


INSPIRATION

We serve a BIG God! We serve a God who is in control! We serve a God who has never wrung His hands over anything - a God who cannot be shaken by circumstances. We serve a God who takes every measure to work all things together for good...All things. He has never looked at the world and wondered what to do. He has never looked at your circumstances and wondered what to do! He has never been confused about any situation. God doesn't say, "I wonder what is going to happen....". He doesn't look at what is happening and wonder what we will do? He knows. We know that God is all-knowing and present everywhere. And we can be sure that never in the history of the world has God ever said: "Oops! I didn't see that coming." Whatever you are going through now, He is BIG enough. Whatever is coming your way next, He is BIG enough. We have confidence. We have hope because God is big enough for all our stuff.

Don't let your feelings about what you're going through cloud what you know about God. Don't let the dark overwhelm you. God is with you there, handling things in a way that only He can. You have the honor of being a child of the one true King! Rest assured that He's got you!



APPLICATION

Have you ever been hit so hard by life that you just don't see a way out? You don't see a solution to the problem? Have you felt like even God had thrown His hands up and said "I can't handle this."? An illness hits and you're out of work for two years. You lose your house, your car, your dignity. And there seems to be no end in sight.

You have surgery and find yourself addicted to pain killers. You're arrested for your third DUI and you end up in jail. You have a gambling problem...Sexual addiction...A troubled marriage...Troubled children. Where is your hope anchored? Do you have hope? Or do you believe that there is no way out of your turmoil? What evidence do you have for your hope? Or your despair?

What do you know about God's character that can help you believe that He is able? Are there references from the bible that encourage you? Consider how God has been faithful to some of your favorite Bible characters.



I can't handle your situation.

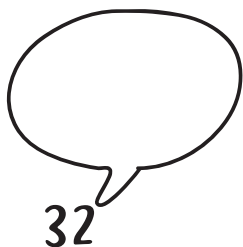
CONTEMPLATION

1. What are some things that you can do to see truth when you feel like God can't help you?

2. Try seeing God through your rearview mirror. Sometime the clearest way of seeing that He never fails us is by looking back on all the times He has come through for us.

3. Journal your walk with God so that you can look back during hard times and see that He never fails.

4. Dig into the word of God. See His faithfulness in the past. Know His character so that you can believe that He will be faithful with you.



ELABORATION

Trusting God is easy on a sunny day when everything is going your way. This quickly brings up the idea of God’s will, God’s timing, and God’s unquestionable power. God gives us instruction about this in Paul’s letter to the Romans 12:2. “Be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God.”

When thinking of God’s will, the safest place to start is to understand that God’s perspective is different than ours. This means that often his will may be different than ours. It is important to not try to impose our will onto God, but to remain humble in our requests of God. This can be especially difficult if you are suffering. It is wise to “be transformed by the renewal of [our] mind” on a daily basis. If we have renewed our mind daily in the Spirit of Christ, then hopefully we will be more understanding about God’s will when we are struggling. How can we be transformed by the renewal of our mind? Is accepting God’s will is ever difficult?

Further Reading - I Kings 17:17-24; II Kings 5:1-14; John 5:1-16

PRAYERS & PRAISE



I can't handle your situation.