

Created to Dream
Part Four- Difficulties
October 29, 2023

I have told you these things so that in me you may have peace. In this world, you will have trouble. But take heart, I have overcome the world.
(John 16:33, New International Version)

I am the Alpha and Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.
(Revelation 22:13, NLT)

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to His purpose.
(Romans 8:28, New English Translation)

Be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or in dread of them (your problems), for the Lord your God is the one that that is going with you. He will not desert you or abandon you!
(Deuteronomy 31:6 New American Standard Bible)

1. God allows difficulty into our lives to PROTECT US.

Now when they had gone, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Get up! Take the Child and His mother and flee to Egypt and stay there until I tell you; for Herod is going to search for the Child to kill Him.' So Joseph got up and took the Child and His mother while it was still night, and left for Egypt. He stayed there until the death of Herod.
(Matthew 2:13-15, NASB)

2. God allows difficulty in our lives to PREPARE US.

As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.
(Isaiah 55:9, NIV)

My immediate response was not to consult any human being. I did not go up to Jerusalem to see those who were apostles before I was, but I went into Arabia. Later I returned to Damascus. Then after three years, I went up to Jerusalem to get acquainted with Cephas[b] and stayed with him fifteen days. 19 I saw none of the other apostles—only James, the Lord's brother.
(Galatians 1:16-1,9 NIV)

Be still and know that I am God.
(Psalm 46:10, NIV)

3. God allows difficulties into our lives to PERSUADE US.

But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him. The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.'
(Luke 15:20-24, NIV)

For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.
(Hebrews 12:12, NIV)

4. God allows difficulties into our lives to PERFECT US.

- A-** Admit that I am a sinner and have broken God's law
- B-** Believe that Christ died on a cross and took the penalty for my sins
- C-** Change your way of life and put God first