



Choosing to Trust God in Tough Situations

The blizzard that swept across the continent during Christmastime 2022 paralyzed the international airport near my home. My husband and I had purchased airline tickets to travel to our youngest daughter's home for the holidays, but as the news told of countless delayed and canceled flights, we began to wonder whether we would be able to go.

We went to the airport on the morning of our scheduled departure, checked in, and seated ourselves near our gate. Hundreds of other passengers waited for their flights, too. One by one, those flights were either delayed or canceled.

One woman, stranded for five days, shrugged her shoulders and said, "There's nothing I can do." Her eyes brimmed with tears.

A young man said, "I'm going to charter a bus and fill it up with other passengers trying to get to the same destination."

Many people handled their disappointment and stress well. Others, not so much. They expressed frustration with the airlines and accused gate attendants and crew members of being irresponsible.

Life being what it is, we encounter tough situations over which we have no control. We observe the goings-on around us and make assumptions and draw conclusions. Trouble is, we can't see or know everything that's happening behind the scenes to affect our situation. So, based on incomplete information, we develop incorrect assumptions and conclusions. Worse, in the stress of the moment, we forget that God is sovereign over every detail of our lives. We focus only on our immediate circumstances that are not going well, and we end up frustrated, angry, dejected, or hopeless.

This happened in the Bible story about Jairus, the father of a little girl who became ill and died. When faced with tragic loss, Jairus' family and friends focused only on the circumstances beyond their control and lost hope. But Jesus had a different perspective. Here's what the passage says:

"While he was still speaking, someone from the ruler's house came and said, 'Your daughter is dead; do not trouble the Teacher anymore.' But Jesus on hearing this answered him, 'Do not fear; only believe, and she will be well.'

"And when he came to the house, he allowed no one to enter with him, except Peter and John and James, and the father and mother of the child. And all were weeping and mourning for her, but he said, "Do not weep, for she is not dead but sleeping.'

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"And they laughed at him, knowing that she was dead. But taking her by the hand he called, saying, 'Child, arise.' And her spirit returned, and she got up at once. And he directed that something should be given her to eat." (Luke 8:49-55 ESV)

Jairus' friends and family focused on the facts as they saw and understood them. The little girl was dead. End of story.

But Jesus knew what the people didn't. He knew every behind-the-scenes detail involved in this situation, and He had a plan.

The next time we face difficult circumstances, let's pause to remember that God knows infinitely more about them than we do. He knows what's happening behind-the-scenes in the spiritual realm, and He has a plan. Nothing can thwart His purposes. He is wise, good, and sovereign over every detail of our lives, and we can trust Him.

"Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths." (Proverbs 3:5-6 ESV)

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