

Series: "5 Things you'll Never Hear God say..."
Part 3: I WISH I COULD HELP, BUT...!
Pastor Joel Spiridigliozzi / April 13, 2008
Audio Message available at <http://www.kingstreet.org/audio/>

I. WHAT GOD CAN DO

- A. Old Testament Examples of God's HELP
1. God's Promise to Sarah (Genesis 18:10-14)
 2. Judah and its crops (Jeremiah 32:15)
 3. The Fiery Furnace (Daniel 3)
- B. New Testament Examples of God's HELP
1. Jesus Stilling the Storm (Mark 4:35-41)
 2. God's control of the course of History (Acts 17:26)
- C. Biblical Examples of God's Seeming UNHELPLESSNESS
1. John the Baptist Beheaded (Mark 6:14-29)
 2. Paul's Thorn in the Flesh (2 Corinthians 12:7-10)
 3. The Cross (Luke 22:42)

II. PRINCIPLES TO LIVE BY

1. Troubles in life are assumed
- The fact that God is all-powerful to help assumes that there will be trouble in life.
 - **Eudaemonism**: The system of philosophy which makes human happiness the highest object. It says that since happiness is the supreme value, we may confidently look to God here and now to shield us from unpleasantness at every turn, or if unpleasantness breaks in, to deliver us from it immediately because it is never his will that we should have to live with it.
 - **Biblical Response to Eudaemonism**: God's will is not that I should every moment feel happy, but that I should every moment be holy.
Hebrews 12:7, 11 "Endure hardships as discipline; God is treating you as sons. For what son is not disciplined by his father? No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it."
2. God promises that I will not be overcome by suffering
1 Corinthians 10:13 "No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it."
3. God's power becomes visible through human weakness
2 Timothy 4:17 "But the Lord stood at my side and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. And I was delivered from the lion's mouth."

III. CONCLUSION

"Suffering teaches us patience. These words were found penned on the wall of a prison cell in Europe: 'I believe in love even when I don't feel it. I believe in God even when He is silent.'" – Billy Graham

“Suffering is the heritage of the bad, of the repentant, and of the Son of God. Each one ends in the cross. The bad thief is crucified, the repentant thief is crucified, and the Son of God is crucified. By these signs we know the widespread heritage of suffering.”

– Oswald Chambers

“Faith for my deliverance is not faith in God. Faith means, whether I am visibly delivered or not, I will stick to my belief that God is love. There are some things only learned in a fiery furnace.”

- Oswald Chambers