

God Will Make a Way - Psalm 145:18-19

Introduction: A young mother of three is diagnosed with terminal cancer. Suddenly the father is forced to be both dad and mom. He asks: *“How am I going to make it?”*

A worker of 39 years with the same company gets the news that his company has gone bankrupt. All of a sudden his job is gone. His pension is gone. His life savings will soon be gone. He wonders: *“What does the future hold for a me at my age?”*

An executive runs off with his receptionist leaving his wife and three children heartbroken and alone. She asks: *“What did I do to deserve this?”*

Crises. Bad news. Disasters. Diseases. Unfair circumstances. Unjust treatment. It is all around us. It can hit any one of us at any time. It can leave us wondering which way to turn. It can lead us to ask: *“Where is God when I need Him?”*

Now I don't pretend to know all the answers. All I know is that these scenarios are real, and unfortunately, becoming more common every day. It's a legitimate question and one that begs for an answer. What better place to find the answer than in the message of Jesus - the Master of Hope?

Sometimes, there are miracles. Sometimes diseases are healed, disasters are averted, and impossible situations are overcome. When this happens, we had better be on our knees saying, *“Thank you Lord!”* But what if there is no miracle? What if God doesn't answer in the way we want? Why do some people receive a miracle and others do not? Why does God seem to intervene in some situations and not in others?

We've all had times when we've lost, we've hurt, we've suffered, and we ask, *“Where is God in all this?”*

Well, one of the most difficult lessons we all need to learn in our spiritual walk is that even when bad things happen and we don't understand why, we can always trust God to be present and working on our behalf. Even in the worst tragedies, we still serve a God who sees and cares.

What we all need to learn is how to recognize that God is present and at work. The thing is, we never know just how He is going to show up. The Bible tells us that God often reveals Himself to His people in the most unexpected ways.

- He came as a ram in the bush to Abram as he was about to sacrifice his own son Isaac.
- He came in a burning bush to Moses in the wilderness.
- He came as chariots and horses to Elisha and his servant as they were surrounded by their enemies.
- He came as a blinding light to Saul on the Damascus road.
- He came as a voice in the midst of loneliness to the aged Apostle John on the isle of Patmos.

You just never know just how God will show up in your crisis. But He will show up! Like the words of Don Moen, who wrote the song, *“God Will Make A Way.”*

“God will make a way when there seems to be no way.

He works in ways we cannot see. He will make a way for me.

He will be my guide. Hold me closely to His side.

With love and strength for each new day, He will make a way.”

But even though we believe those words, the question still remains, “*Why do some crises turn out OK and others don’t?*” What if God doesn’t answer our prayers? I mean, sometimes accidents happen and people die. Sometimes people get sick and don’t get well. Sometimes marriages crumble, and economic situations deteriorate and people lose their jobs. Where is God in situations like these?

Today, let’s try to uncover some truths and find some answers to these questions. We’ll do that by identifying two different kinds of people - people who’ve lost everything, and people who feel they’ve lost nothing. First, Where is God:

1. When You’ve Lost Everything - Job 1:13 - 2:13

Job’s story is a demonstration of just how difficult it is to see God at work in the midst of a terrible situation. But Job’s story shows us the secret of finding a way through a tough time. In Job 1:13 - 2:13, we read where Job lost his wealth, his livelihood, his family, and his health - all within a matter of a few short hours. Not many people have that much tragedy to deal with all at once! It was enough to make a man want to end it all. But Job tried to keep up his faith. The Bible says in 1:22, “*Through all this Job did not sin nor did he blame God.*” But he still had to wonder why. He still had questions in his mind.

Chapters 4-37 contain a series of conversations between Job and his three friends. They came to him for comfort and tried to give him some answers for the tragedies in his life. But to each answer they offered, Job had more questions. Though his friends meant well, their answers were shallow and meaningless to Job.

Job needed something with more substance. The only source in which He could find his answer was in God. But I want you to notice how God responded. In chapters 38 - 41, God’s response is not so much of an answer as it is an encounter. **Read Job 38:1-5.** God met Job face to face in the midst of his tragedy. The answer to the problems of pain and suffering and unfairness and tragedy is not found a 12 step program or in a list of principles. It’s found in a person. It’s found in God Himself.

When you’re going through a tough time, you don’t want to hear someone’s philosophy; you want their presence. You don’t want to hear someone’s theology, you want their touch. You want someone close by who cares and can be sympathetic. Well, what better person to have walking with you than God Himself?

The one constant for those who have faced a difficult time in their lives and have remained close to the Lord through it all is the fact that whether there was a miracle or not, God still showed up in a powerful way. God still makes a way even through death or sickness or suffering by revealing His divine presence. We may not know when, where, or how, He’s going to show up, but He will. The key is to reach out to God for help. Since He’s always there, we’ll eventually find Him.

OK, preacher, I can see how people who have lost everything would need some reassurance that God will be there for them. I can understand their sense of desperation. But what about me? I’m not an addict. I’m not

depressed. Things are going OK for me. I'm just a normal person with the normal kinds of stresses and problems. I don't have a big life crisis. How does God fit in to my life? Why does He need to make a way for me when I feel as if I haven't lost my way? Good question.

2. When You Feel You've Lost Nothing

For many years the Super WOW speakers were those people who had dramatic testimonies. They'd tell youth how God could deliver them from drugs, alcohol, etc.

But one kid finally asked, "*What about us who have been in church all our lives, and haven't got into trouble or who don't drink or do drugs. What about us 'normal' people?*"

Well, the fact is, there are more "*normal*" people in our churches than there are people who are going through terrible tragedies. So let's talk about "*normal*." What is "*normal*?"

Psychologists tell us that being "*normal*" is not to be equated with "*having it all together*." The only people who really have it all together are the perfect people - the people who have fully arrived - who say that things couldn't get any better - who don't need any help whatsoever. Do you know anyone like that? I do--- they're all in heaven!

But what we would call "*normal*" people, in fact, don't "*have it all together*." The truth is, it's all quite scattered for them! There's still a lot missing in your lives. If you're one of those, there's quite a distance between where you are and where you want to be. Psychologists call it a "*gap*." So, all normal people consider these 3 questions:

A. How are your relationships? Do you want them to be closer? Chances are, you have a relationship or perhaps several in your life that are good, but they could be better. It might be with a family member, a neighbor, a co-worker, or a friend. Your relationship is good, but there's room for improvement.

There might be a "*gap*" between you and your spouse. Your day-to-day relationship is OK, but you just don't enjoy the intimacy you used to, or it's not what you expected it to be at this stage. You know there should be more to that relationship than what it is. Normal people, consider this:

B. Do you want things to be more together your life? By this I mean, are you where you thought you'd be at this point in your life? Have you met those personal goals you set for yourself? Do you think the way you want to think and do the things you want to do? Do you feel emotionally, the way you want to feel? Are you living up to the expectations you had or the potential you dreamed of when you were younger?

What about your habits? Are they building you up or tearing you down? How do you really feel about yourself? Are you doing the things you want to do? All these things serve as a daily reminder of the gap between how you feel and how you want to feel. Normal people, consider this:

C. Are you spiritually filled or spiritually hungry? Are you experiencing a gap between yourself and God? Maybe that childlike faith that drew you to Christ has developed into a cynical or lackadaisical attitude. Perhaps you need to recapture that connection you once had with God - when you first got to know Him.

Maybe you need to restore that spiritual passion you once had, when you couldn't wait to come to church. When you would sing the hymns like you meant it. When you were eager to get involved and help others grow in their faith. When you shared your faith with others as a child showing off a new toy. When you stayed around after church to fellowship.

Are you spiritually hungry? Is there a gap where once there was a genuine passion for the things of God? Well there's good news for normal people. God will make a way for you too. But the problem is that normal people can't see God's way because they don't believe they need a way.

But the fact is, we all need a way. We all need a way to either find our way through our tragedies or bridge the gap that exists between where we are and where we need to be.

3. Finding Faith for the Journey

The main obstacle to finding God's way through the crises and the gaps in life is failing to believe that a way exists. Like the song said, "*God will make a way when there seems to be no way.*" But how do we find that way? How can we make it through the tragedies to find the way out? How can we bridge the gap to get to where we want to be and overcome our disbelief?

It starts with faith in God; by believing that God will indeed make a way. But it's not just a matter of having faith in God, but exercising faith in God.

You see, most Christians don't have a problem believing in God. In fact, you can't call yourself a Christian unless you first believe in God. Where the problem lies is in trusting God. We tend to doubt and ask questions when it comes to placing complete trust and confidence on God: Can I depend on Him? Will He come through for me? Will He make a way for me?

When it was legal to do so, people would walk across Niagara Falls on a tightrope. One such daredevil was a man named Blondin. He performed this feat many times in front of cheering crowds. Once he walked over the raging falls pushing a wheelbarrow. When he came back across, he ask the crowd, "*How many believe I can do it again?*" They all raised their hand and cheered. "*All right, who'll be the first to ride in the wheelbarrow as I push it across?*" No one volunteered. No one was brave enough to put their trust in Blondin. They said they had faith, but their actions proved otherwise.

God is much more trustworthy than Blondin. Trust in God is the bridge over the raging river you might be going through. Trust is how we access God's way for us. Trust is acting on your belief that God will make a way.

You'll never benefit from a faith in God until you step out on the bridge and start walking across. Trust is both an attitude and an action. You've got to believe, then act on that belief.

It's like a toddler learning to walk, taking that first small step, then another, then another, until before they even realize it; they've made a way for themselves.

You take your first small step of faith, and then another, then another until you realize that God has made a

way for you to know Him personally. The more you act on your faith in God, the more you will begin to see His way for you.

Conclusion: I close as I began, with **Psalm 145:18-19 READ:** As we bow our heads, would you pray that God will show you the way to Him today? If you're lost, you need to find your way to God in the worst way. Jesus said in **John 14:6 (NIV)**, "*I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.*" Come to Jesus today, and let him show you the way to heaven.

Perhaps you've been saved, but you're going through a tough time, and you've just about reached the end of your rope, and you're wondering what to do. You can find God at the end of that rope. He's always been there, you just need to see Him.

Or perhaps you just need to move up a little closer to God. Your life is OK, but it could be better. There's a gap in your life. The best thing you can do is turn to Jesus. He's got your answer. He's prepared your way. Just reach out to Him and find it. **Prayer**