



# Trusting in the Providence of God: Believing that All God's Purposes are Right

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## MAIN IDEA

- **Faith is believing that all God's purposes are right.**

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## MEMORY VERSE

*The LORD is righteous in all his ways and kind in all his works.*

—Psalm 145:17

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## SCRIPTURE

- 1) 2 Kings 5:1-15
- 2) Psalm 145:17
- 3) Isaiah 29:16
- 4) Isaiah 45:9
- 5) Jeremiah 32:40
- 6) Romans 11:33



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## LESSON SUMMARY

When we complain about something God has done in our lives, we are questioning His wisdom and goodness. God has things He is doing in this world, and He has a perfect way to fit us into His plan. Sometimes it is hard to understand what God's good purposes are, but we can believe that all God's purposes are right. We just need to wait and see God work out His perfect will.

Naaman's leprosy was actually used for good. It brought him to faith in God, and it was a means for God to show His glory. Even the captivity of Naaman's young maid was not a mistake, but was actually part of God's eternal purposes.

We can look at circumstances and wrongly question God's wisdom. Or we can cover our mouths, guard our hearts, and remember that God has the right, power, wisdom, and righteousness to govern the world.

We also need to realize that God's purposes are never fully revealed in this life. All His providences are incomplete in the present. So we must reserve judgment, as we only see a small piece of God's plan.

God's promise to His children is that He will always do good to them. The greatest good He can do for believers is to put the fear of Him in them, so that they never turn from Him (Jeremiah 32:40).

*Ask God for a humble heart and for the grace to guard your heart against judging Him or questioning His wisdom or goodness. Pray for a submissive heart that recognizes God's right to govern the world and your life. Praise God that His purposes are always right, and with your son or daughter, ask Him to give you the faith to trust Him.*

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## AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

***You turn things upside down! Shall the potter be regarded as the clay, that the thing made should say of its maker, "He did not make me"; or the thing formed say of him who formed it, "He has no understanding"?***—Isaiah 29:16

***Woe to him who strives with him who formed him, a pot among earthen pots! Does the clay say to him who forms it, "What are you making?" or "Your work has no handles?"***—Isaiah 45:9

In what ways are you tempted to resist God's purposes in your life?

Why is this a foolish thing for us to do?

Discuss a time you resisted God's will and what was the outcome.

Why would it be important to memorize the following verse?

**The LORD is righteous in all his ways and kind in all his works.—Psalm 145:17**

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### ACTION STEP

During application time, each student was asked to decide on a personal response to what was learned. After recording this step below, discuss how your child can apply this response to his or her life this week.

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### SUGGESTION FOR JOURNALING

Imagine that you are one of the disciples seeing Jesus being crucified. Write about how you think you might feel. Then write how you might feel after you know Jesus has been resurrected. Do the circumstances look the same? Has what happened changed, or has your understanding of what happened changed? What is more trustworthy, your feelings or God's truth? What lesson have you learned about God's providence?




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### SEEING GOD AT WORK

## A Nuisance or a Blessing?

Charles Haddon Spurgeon, a great preacher of the 1800s, was scheduled to preach in Halifax, England, on a Wednesday during a heavy snowstorm. Five to six thousand people were present to hear Spurgeon preach in the afternoon. In the evening Spurgeon preached again. As people were leaving, and only about a hundred people were present, a huge beam broke and a portion of the balcony crashed to the floor. Only two people were injured—with broken legs.

What if the beam had split earlier? Many more people would have been in the building. If they had not been injured by the falling debris, they could have been injured in the panic of thousands of people trying to get out of the building.

Charles Spurgeon saw the providential hand of God in the timing of the accident, as well as in the circumstances God orchestrated. This is what he wrote later, "All day long it thawed so fast, that the snow seemed to leave a mass of snow and water together. This ran through the roof on us, to our miserable annoyance, and I was almost ready to complain that we had hard dealing from God's providence. But if it had been a frost instead of a thaw, the place must have fallen several hours before. And then your minister and the greater part of his congregation would probably have been in the other world."

What was originally seen as a nuisance—dripping water—and a "hard providence" from God was actually God's providential hand of blessing, removing stress from the roof.

*Do you know of an accident that could have been a lot worse than it was, or an accident that was prevented? Or perhaps you know of something you thought was a nuisance that ended up being a blessing? Discuss these stories together, and how they prove the trustworthiness of God. Pray that God would give you a deeper trust in His purposes and His providence.*

—Story adapted from *2200 Quotes From the Writings of Charles H. Spurgeon* compiled by Tom Carter, (Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker Books, 1995), 169-170. Used by permission of Baker Books.