



Trusting in the Providence of God: When you Can't See God's Hand, Trust His Heart

MAIN IDEAS

- **Faith is trusting God's heart when you cannot see or understand His providential hand.**
- **Standing on the promises of God's Word and remembering His past mercies is a way of fighting for our faith.**

MEMORY VERSE

From of old no one has heard or perceived by the ear, no eye has seen a God besides you, who acts for those who wait for him.—Isaiah 64:4

SCRIPTURE

- 1) Joshua 1:9
- 2) Psalm 77:1-9, 11-15
- 3) Psalm 94:14
- 4) Psalm 103:11
- 5) Psalm 145:9
- 6) Isaiah 64:4
- 7) Jeremiah 29:11
- 8) Jeremiah 32:40
- 9) Lamentations 3:22-23
- 10) Romans 8:32
- 11) Hebrews 13:5b



LESSON SUMMARY

Though God loves all mankind, He especially loves His children (Psalm 145:9; Psalm 103:11). If you are a Christian, God loves you with an everlasting love and is committed to doing good to you. However, there are times when Christians don't feel God's love. In those times, Christians must stand on the way things really are, trusting the truth, not their feelings.

Asaph expressed his feelings of being rejected by God in Psalm 77, but he determined to remember the past faithfulness of God—dwelling on the truth rather than on his feelings.

In times of despair we, too, can dwell on the past faithfulness of God and trust His promises while we await the unfolding of God's good plan for us, remembering:

From of old no one has heard or perceived by the ear, no eye has seen a God besides you, who acts for those who wait for him.—Isaiah 64:4

When we can't see God's hand—when we don't understand what He is doing—we can trust His heart.

Thank God that He loves you with an everlasting love. This is amazing! God will never stop loving His children! Ask Him for the grace to believe the truth and to keep your feelings in the proper place. With your son or daughter, praise God that His heart is always inclined toward His children, and ask for faith to trust Him when you can't see His hand.

AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

Read Romans 8:31-37. Ask your child to list all the things that cannot separate us from God's love. **Do you think Paul wrote this to encourage people to trust God when they don't see the purposes of His providence?**

Share with your child about a time when you did not understand what God was doing in your life. Explain how you fought the fight of faith.

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.

SUGGESTION FOR JOURNALING

What does it mean to you when it says in the lesson “When you can't see God's hand, trust His heart”? Do you trust God's heart? If you don't trust God as much as you want to, what can you do?

Read the words to the William Cowper hymn, *God Moves in a Mysterious Way*, and discuss the meaning of the hymn with a parent.

God moves in a mysterious way
His wonders to perform;
He plants his footsteps in the sea
and rides upon the storm.

Deep in unfathomable mines
of never failing skill
He treasures up his bright designs
And works his sovereign will.

You fearful saints, fresh courage take;
The clouds you so much dread
Are big with mercy and shall break
in blessings on your head.

Judge not the Lord by feeble sense,
But trust him for his grace;
Behind a frowning providence
There hides a smiling face.

His purposes will ripen fast,
unfolding every hour;
The bud may have a bitter taste,
but sweet will be the flower.

Blind unbelief is sure to err
And scan his work in vain;
God is his own interpreter
And he will make it plain.

**SEEING GOD AT WORK****Where Are You, God?**

by Sally Michael

Doesn't God know what I am going through? Is He working in this? He seems so silent. Where are you, God? Thoughts like these went through my mind once again as I lamented my situation. My husband and I were nine months into an adoption process for an Ecuadorian baby girl, and we still did not have a birth certificate for the baby. After nine months, we hadn't even made it through the first step!

Another month passed—and still no birth certificate. “Where are you, God?” I asked again.

His answer? “I am right here—where I have always been. I have been at work through all the time you did not see My hand. All the time that you thought I was silent, I was working out my plan in your life.”

My high school Spanish teacher came running up the hill to my parent's house in Quito, Ecuador. Huffing and puffing, she was hard to understand. But she was talking about a birth certificate, and that was enough to catch my interest and make my heart skip a beat.

She had a friend in an office connected to the office that handled birth certificates. Although the birth certificates for the past year were not yet filed, she was

willing to start filing them so that she could find the birth certificate for our baby. A few weeks later, we had the birth certificate in hand.

I was ashamed. I had accused God of not knowing or caring about my situation. I had asked Him where He was. I could not see Him working for me. But He had been working for me and for this adoption before a baby was even born, before I even graduated from high school, and I am now convinced, before the foundation of the world. Of the four Spanish teachers in my school, He placed me in the class of the teacher with a friend who could help us 14 years later. He made me a good Spanish student and grew an affection between my teacher and myself. He made her aware of our adoption and gave her the willingness to help. He placed her friend in a strategic position to help us. And somewhere along the line, He orchestrated the meeting of these two women. God had been at work before I even knew there was a need for Him to be at work!

Yes, God was at work accomplishing His purposes even though I could not recognize His work. But it wasn't until later that I realized that He was doing another work. He was not only bringing an adoptive child into our home, He was also teaching me to trust Him.

God is working even when we don't see His hand. Much of His work is hidden work. Is there a situation in your life that you need to trust God to work out? Pray about it and ask God to give you faith in Him. If you aren't struggling now, have you had a situation like this in the past? Thank God for carrying you through. Perhaps you may need to repent of mistrusting Him. Or, pray that God would give you an unshakable trust in Him so that when the storms of life come and you can't see His hand at work for you, you will trust His Fatherly heart.