
"When things don't go your way."

The mind of man plans his way, But the LORD directs his steps. (Proverbs 16:9 NASB)

Part I

What do you do, when things don't go your way?

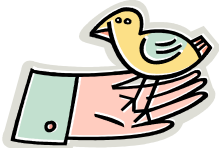
What do you do when the unexpected occurs?

What do you do when God's plan doesn't match your plan?

What do you do when your best laid plan goes haywire?

~Chippie the Parakeet~

Chippie the parakeet never even saw it coming. One second he was peacefully perched in his cage. The next his life was turned upside down.



His problems began when Chippie's owner decided to clean his cage with a vacuum cleaner. She removed the attachment from the end of the hose and stuck it in the cage. The phone rang, and she turned to pick it up. She'd barely said "Hello" when - sssopp! Chippie got sucked in.

The bird owner gasped, put down the phone, turned off the vacuum, and opened the bag. There was Chippie - still alive, but stunned. Since the bird was covered with dust and stuff, she grabbed him and raced to the bathroom, turned on the faucet, and held Chippie under the running water. Then, realizing that Chippie was soaked and shivering, she did what any compassionate bird owner would do.....she reached for the hair dryer and blasted him with hot air.

Poor Chippie never knew what hit him.



A few days after the trauma, the reporter who had initially written about the event contacted Chippie's owner to see how the bird was recovering. "Well," she replied. "Chippie doesn't sing much anymore - he just sits and stares."

It's not hard to see why. Sucked in, washed up, and blown over.....that's enough to steal the song from the strongest of hearts.

~What Do You Do~

What do you do? Where do you turn, when things don't quite go your way? When you find yourself facing failure? When you find yourself facing what looks like a reality that something you have wanted so bad you could taste it, isn't going to happen? What do you do? Do you turn to God or do you become bitter because it didn't happen as you expected? Unless you have God in your life, you will probably turn bitter.



I know of this person and you probably know someone too that has turned bitter because of a failed marriage. This person, after 25+ years, the only subject she wanted to talk about was how her ex-husband didn't treat her right. She never forgave and never got over the things that didn't go her way. Even after 25 years she was still bitter. I would say that her failed marriage controlled her life.

A part of human nature is that we will work hard to try and take matters into our own hands. Have you ever tried to take matters into your own hands? Did it work out? Remember the saying, "Let go and let God."

Are we leaning upon ourselves and not God? But, is that when God takes back and lets us know who is in charge? Do it my way God says, not your way, not my way!

Learning to trust God, learning to walk with God means that we keep working on a relationship with God regardless of what happens in life, no matter how small or large we think it may be.

~Precious Lord, Take My Hand~

"Thomas Andrew Dorsey was a black jazz musician from Atlanta. In the twenties he gained a certain amount of notoriety as the composer of jazz tunes with suggestive lyrics, but he gave all that up in 1926 to concentrate exclusively on spiritual music. "Peace in the Valley" is one of his best known

songs, but there is a story behind his most famous song that deserves to be told.

In 1932 the times were hard for Dorsey. Just trying to survive the depression years as a working musician meant tough sledding. On top of that, his music was not accepted by many people. Some said it was much too worldly-the devil's music, they called it. Many years later Dorsey could laugh about it. He said, "I got kicked out of some of the best churches in the



land." But the real kick in the teeth came one night in St. Louis when he received a telegram informing him that his pregnant wife had died suddenly.

Dorsey was so filled with grief that his faith was shaken to the roots, but instead of wallowing in self-pity, he turned to the discipline he knew best-music. In the midst of agony he wrote the following lyrics:

Precious Lord, take my hand,

Lead me on, let me stand.

I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.

Through the storm, through the night,

Lead me on to the light;

Take my hand precious Lord, lead me home.

If you live long enough, you will experience heartache, disappointment, and sheer helplessness. The Lord is our most precious resource in those hours of trauma. "The Lord is a refuge for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble ([Psa 9:9](#)). Tom Dorsey understood that. His song was originally written as a way of coping with his personal pain, but even today it continues to bless thousands of others when they pass through times of hardship."

~Are you being tested~



Have you ever thought, maybe God is testing me? Will we be able to pass this test so we can go on to the next one or will we fail this test and

back-up in our relationship with God? We can't progress to God's next test if we don't pass the one we have before us today.

If you are here and the song has been sucked out of your soul, I invite you to turn to God. Yes, I invite you to turn to God. I invite you to keep believing, keep trusting, and keep depending on God. Keep your faith in God and let your light shine, every day.

~John Wesley Story~



The story goes - John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist Movement, returned to England from a missionary trip to the Colonies in the early 1700's. He was discouraged and disappointed. He felt he had let down God. He felt that he had let down the church. He felt like a failure.

Yet, he continued turning to God. In a few months following his return to England, he happened to go to a Bible Study, where he felt his heart touched by God. In the strength of that feeling of being touched and loved by God, he was able to re-examine his life and renew a commitment to be faithful.

~Not going your way~

Have you ever had a time in your life when things just didn't go your way? You prayed, you hoped, you planned for success, but some how it just didn't work out. No matter how well you may be sailing along, there will come a time when things won't go our way. How you handle things that don't turn out the way you want them to will determine how well you know your creator God. You may let bitterness set in or you turn your back on your faith in Jesus or you leave the church, all because things didn't work out the way you wanted them to. God never promised us a "Rose Garden" as the song goes. But Jesus



did say that if we follow Him and His commandments that we would have peace. Let us now look at John 16:33, Jesus' words; *"These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world."* (John 16:33 NASB)

Make the right choice to turn humbly to Jesus as your Savior and the leader of the path of righteousness. You see, we have eternal life through God's plan of salvation

and as the verse goes in the book of Romans; *And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.* (Romans 8:28 KJV) We generally take this verse to mean that no matter how bad things look right now, in the end, everything will turn out for the best; which usually means the way we want things to be. We usually use this verse 28 to support what we want to happen, not necessarily what God's will is for our life.

We like and prefer to quote the promise that "all things work together for the good," but leave out the conditions "to them that love God, and to them that are called



according to his purpose." I read or heard (don't remember) the other day that most people interpret the Bible in their favor. In other words it's the greed, the first Adam of sin in us. We don't want to read the Bible for what it is, we want to put our twist to God's holy words.

But let me remind you that the Bible is what it is and has been since the beginning of creation and it cannot be changed in any way. It doesn't matter what we think it says, it's what God says it says. We are to believe in God's word by faith. It will all end up as God willed it; we cannot override God's will, we need to go along with the will of God, to humbly accept that he knows best for us. We are saved through salvation by faith in Jesus Christ. So we must accept Jesus by faith.

~The four P's~

I have a few tips for you today, four to be exact, that we can remember, "When things don't go your way." Remember God has a purpose, a plan, a provision and a presence. In short, He has the perfect plan for each of us and He never fails and He never makes a mistake.

~Purpose~

1. - When things don't go your way - Remember God has a purpose for you and your life. What is that purpose, I don't know; only you and God know. That is where prayer, fasting and reading the Word come in. We all have to communicate with God to know which way to go and what path to take that will lead to eternity. Some think that our

goal or purpose in life is to be happy, no matter what. Remember that song that goes over and over again, "Don't Worry, Be Happy." But God's goal for us is not happiness or success. As the saying goes, "You can't buy happiness." It doesn't have a price tag.

~Every body wants to be happy~

I'm going to quote something by D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones; "Everybody wants to be happy - That is the great motive behind every act and ambition, behind all work and all striving and effort. Everything is designed for happiness. But the great tragedy of the world is that, though it gives itself to seek for happiness, it never seems to be able to find it. The present state of the world reminds us of that very



forcibly. What is the matter? I think the answer is that we have never understood this text as we should have done. "Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness." (Matt. 5:6)

What does it mean? Let me put it negatively like this. We are not to hunger and thirst after blessedness, we are not to hunger and thirst after happiness. But that is what most people are doing. We put happiness and blessedness as the one thing that we desire, and thus we always miss it, it always eludes us. According to the Scriptures happiness is never something that should be sought directly; it is always something that results from seeking something else."

Everything is designed for happiness. But God's ultimate goal for us is to conform us to the image of Christ. Paul is speaking again here in Romans; *For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.* (Romans 8:29 KJV) God's purpose is to conform us to the image of His Son, in the likeness of His Son. When your goals are frustrated, look to God's higher purpose in your life.

George Mueller was a man known for building orphanages by faith in the mid-1800s. He raised literally millions of dollars for his orphanages, yet died with little in his own bank account. When asked about his conversion experience he commented.

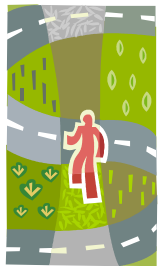
"I was converted in November of 1825, but I only came into the full surrender of the heart four years later, in July 1829. The love of money was gone, the love of place was gone, the love of position was gone, and the love of worldly pleasures and engagements was gone. God, God alone became my portion. I found my all in Him; I wanted nothing else. And by the grace of God this has remained, and has made me a happy man, an exceedingly happy man, and it led me to care only about the things of God. I ask affectionately, my beloved brethren, have you fully surrendered the heart to God, or is there this thing or that thing with which you have taken up irrespective of God? I read a little of the scriptures before, but preferred other books, but since that time the revelation He has made of Himself has become unspeakably blessed to me, and I can say from my heart, God is an infinitely lovely Being. Oh, be not satisfied until in your own inmost soul you can say, God is an infinitely lovely Being!"

~Plan~

2. - When things don't go your way - Remember God has a plan for you. God's plan for our life is to make us like Christ; after all we were created in the image of Christ. We can never be Christ, but we can look to Him as our Savior and mentor for all examples in life. Now the third verse in this set of verses in Romans; *and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified.* (Romans 8:30 NASB) I'm almost reluctant to read this verse at this time because it so conversational in the meaning. The thing we do know about this verse is that "God has a plan of salvation that was settled before the foundation of the world." He has a plan, a method and a design for fulfilling his purpose in us. The problem is that we have our own plan and sometimes that plan doesn't match up with God's plan. Proverbs, the "book of wisdom" tells us that God is in control. If you look at Proverbs 16:9; *"The mind of man plans his way, But the LORD directs his steps."* (Proverbs 16:9 NASB)

We are to hold our plans up to God and therefore get His approval before acting on those plans. When your plans are frustrated, look to God's higher plan. After all His plans are much higher than ours. We usually make our own decisions and choices without consulting God, so when they go array, why do we complain to Him that it is not working out the way we planned it. We are to live in accordance and subject to God's will for us.

~Rescued from Difficulties~



To quote G. Campbell Morgan: "I remember hearing a very dear friend of mine in a conference say that if the Lord leads us into difficulties, He leads us out; but that, if we get into difficulties of our own making, we have to get out ourselves. I thank God that is not true of my life. That is not what I have found out. Yes, it is true, if He leads me into difficulty, He will lead me out; but if I wander off in my own foolishness, He will still follow me, and lead me out."

I purchased a van a number of years ago. I went around telling people that God wanted me to have that van, because I wanted it, the van was at the dealership, the financing worked out; everything fell in place, it had to be of God, I thought. But looking back on it, it was from the Devil, not God. So, who is speaking to us, Satan or God? Be careful, the Bible tells us the Devil comes as an angel of light.

~Provision~

3. - When things don't go your way - Another thing to remember is God's provision. God will provide all the resources you need to endure the struggle and suffering you may face. After all Paul says in Philippians; *And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.* (Philippians 4:19 NASB) I'm reminded, the verse does not say all our wants; that is another subject. After all, He created us. Romans 8:32 says; *He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?* (Rom 8:32 KJV)

Why would God bring us into this world and not supply our needs. After all God is our Father and what do Father's do? They take care of their children. Just think, if He is for us, who can be against us? *What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us?* (Romans 8:31 NASB) With God on our side, no one, yes, no one, can be against us. Jesus Christ over powers anyone or anything else. We just need to put our trust and faith in Him. Ephesians 3:20 says; *Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us,* (Ephesians 3:20 NASB) Remember God will supply our needs, He is for us, not against us and He works in us to do abundant works. God has the necessary provisions for us to overcome.

~Presence~

4. - When things don't go your way - The fourth thing to remember is God's presence. When we have hardships or persecution comes our way and things are not going our way, just remember that nothing can separate us from the love of God. As we pick up the verses in Romans; *For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers,* (Romans 8:38 NASB) *nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.* (Romans 8:39 NASB)



God is here for us all the time, 24/7, you never get a busy signal. God is the same yesterday, today and forever. We ourselves are the only one that can separate us from God's Love. When you are going through that trial or tribulation, just remember you always count on God's presence. Believe it.

There is joy in the presence of the Lord. Check out Psalms 16:11; *Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.* (Psalms 16:11 KJV)

When things don't go your way, please remember;

- ✓ God's purpose is to make you like Jesus.
- ✓ God's plan is to bring us to full maturity.
- ✓ God's provision includes all the spiritual resources you need day by day.
- ✓ God's presence is that nothing can separate us from His love.

The Beatles wrote and recorded a song by the name of "All You Need is Love." They had it partly right. Not sure they were talking about God's love.

But, we all know that, "all we need is God Love!"

Let me leave you with a poem by Carrie Kinyon, used by permission.

When Things Go Wrong

When things go wrong, as they often do
Help me Lord, to keep my eyes on you.

When I stumble, and I often will
When my pathway seems, to be all up-hill.

Take my hand Lord and guide me along
It's only in you, That I can be strong.

So when things go wrong, and they often do
I will stand strong, with my faith in you.

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Dewey E. (Obed) Fox, Bond Servant of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ
