



The Scriptures tell us that a great and marvelous work is about to come forth among the children of men, but they also tell us that great tribulations will come upon us—tribulations so terrible that men’s hearts will fail them (**Luke 21:25**). I believe the coming of Christ is near and that we will live through this great and terrible time.

As I contemplate the future, I have to be honest—I am afraid. But the Scriptures bring us great comfort about fear and tribulation. They also help us look for purpose when life takes terrible twists and turns. These are some of the Scriptures and sayings that bring me hope and comfort.

The Bible alone tells us 366 times to “fear not.” That equals once a day for every day of the year, including leap year!

The Psalms bring great comfort, but there is no room to quote them all here.

- **Romans 8:28** 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. (This is my favorite scripture.)
- **2 Nephi 1:114** But behold, all things have been done in the wisdom of him who knoweth all things.
- **Job 13:15** Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him; but I will maintain mine own ways before him.
- **Jeremiah 29:11** For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.
- **Corinthians 13:12** For now we see through a glass, darkly.
- Faith is not about everything turning out okay; Faith is about being okay no matter how things turn out. (author unknown)
- Fear is faith in the enemy. (author unknown)

The Scriptures themselves tell us nothing can separate us from God. May we all remember this as we encounter tribulations and struggles through life and look forward to a great and marvelous work.

Romans 8:35-39: *“Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*

I grew up with the impression that God was some kind of superhero. All I needed to do was to call out and He would “save-the-day.” In some ways my relationship with God would have resembled what one might have with a superhero. A superhero is someone who comes to your aid, but not someone you know intimately.

As an adult, I had some huge issues come up. I called out to the Lord, prayed and fasted, but my problems were not immediately over. Even when my trials finally resolved, I still bore spiritual scars from some of them.

Later in life I got “one of those calls.” There had been an accident and they were transporting my brother-in-law to the hospital. On the way to the hospital I prayed for my brother-in-law. Once I got there, I stood by my sister while they told her that her husband had died.

Through these events I came to realize that God doesn't always rescue us from our problems; but, it left me with a trust issue with God. In my mind, what good was a God who didn't fix my problems or save me from my trials? I still believed in Him. I still loved Him, but I got very cynical about turning problems over to Him. I had some issues about praying over personal problems. I felt kind of like this: He is going to do what He wants to do anyway, so why bring this to Him? Strangely enough, I would still pray.

The Bible has stories that often parallel our lives. When I was listening to John Larson in chapel one day at CPRS, he was talking about Jesus teaching the multitude. He stated that some of them weren't there to receive teaching; they were there for the miracles. I realized I was one of those people.

In one of Max Lucado's books, he wrote that when Jesus came He didn't give the people what they wanted or expected. He gave them what they needed. His point was they were expecting a Messiah that would free them

from Roman oppression, but Jesus didn't save them from Rome—He saved them from their sins. He saved them from themselves. If I was born at that time I might have found myself in that same crowd. When He didn't meet my expectations, would I have also been in the crowd that called for His crucifixion? I hope not!

Life is often about expectations. It is quite possible if I had spent more time in His Word I would have realized that the Bible certainly doesn't paint a picture of a God that always takes away the trials. Jesus said himself, *“These things I have spoken unto you, that in Me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.”* (John 16:33)

Actually, watching others stand strong in their faith through trials has helped me understand God a little better. God often does not take the trial away, but He will always be with us in and through the trial IF we ask Him to be there. God doesn't want to just come in and save the day; He wants a personal relationship with us. God wants to change us for the better and sometimes going through trials are a way of doing that. God doesn't want to impress us; He wants to be the lover of our souls. God promises to take the bad things that happen in our life and change them for good. He wants to be so much more than a superhero.

In our hearts, whether we realize it or not, we don't want a God that always gives us what we want. We really want a God who gives us what we need.

“Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you; But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when His glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.” (1 Peter 4:12-13)

