

Leave the Baggage Behind Can God's Love Help Me With The Difficulties I'm Facing?

Respond to difficulties by _____

James 1:2-3 *Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles of any kind come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow.*

Judges 7:2 *If I let all of you fight the Midianites, the Israelites will boast to me that they saved themselves by their own strength.*

Remember: God wants us to have confidence _____

Judges 7:7 *The LORD told Gideon, "With these 300 men I will rescue you and give you victory over the Midianites. Send all the others home."*

a) Pick something _____

2 Corinthians 1:9 *Indeed, we felt we had received the sentence of death. But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead.*

b) Redirect your thoughts _____

- You are love (*He is not just loving – He is love*)
- You love me
- You have proven your love for me by dying for me
- Your promises assure me you love me
- Love means you "will the good for me"
- That love extends to this very situation I'm facing now

c) Ask for His love to _____

Psalms 23:6 *Surely your goodness and unfailing love will pursue me all the days of my life, and I will live in the house of the Lord forever.*

d) Thank Him _____

Philippians 1:12, 18 *Now I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that what has happened to me has actually served to advance the gospel... And because of this I rejoice.*

Because your love reaches here, I expect to see your activity in this situation. My confidence is in you and I am excited to see what you will do.

If our minds are not possessed with this idea that God really is love and that reaches all the way down to where we really are, we fall into what is common to all temptation and that is the idea that we cannot trust God.

Dallas Willard

1. PRESSURE/PACE CHECK

- Am I feeling pressure right now? Anxiety? Fear? Anger?
- Is there an 'I've got to solve this NOW' quality to my thinking?
- Do I feel the pull to escape into numbing experiences?

2. THOUGHT CHECK

- What am I trying to control or solve that's stressing me?
- What am I afraid will happen if I don't secure this outcome myself?
- What does that reveal about what I believe about God's love reaching down to where I really am?

3. TRUST CHECK

Am I living as if God's love is trustworthy here—in this pressure, this delay, this fear, this problem, this unmet desire?

4. HEART RESET

Father, you aren't just loving, you ARE love. This extends to me. You love me. This means you are willing the good for my life right now. You want me to live in your grace (to see your activity). I choose to place my confidence in you and the fact that you are helping me with [name the specific thing]. I'm confident I will experience your grace and love because I am your "special possession" (1 Peter 2:9)

Matthew 14:20 *They all ate as much as they wanted, and afterward, the disciples picked up twelve baskets of leftovers. About 5,000 men were fed that day, in addition to all the women and children!*

Isaiah 64:4 *For since the world began, no ear has heard and no eye has seen a God like you, who works for those who wait for him!*

Faith does not operate in the realm of the possible. There is no glory for God in that which is humanly possible. Faith begins where man's power ends. - George Mueller