

You, Lord.”

Only God Can Make That Possible

This response isn't possible for the mere mortal, even given all the facts we have marshaled. So, if you are to have such trust, non-resistance, and love characterize your reaction to seemingly undesirable events, you will need much more than just mental assent to these truths.

The development of this heart attitude requires hours spent alone in God's presence in which He reveals Himself to you as He is. As you do so, He'll change you from the inside out through simple exposure to Himself in His eternity, infinity, omnipotence, omniscience, omnipresence, holiness, righteousness, justice, humility, gentleness, kindness, faithfulness, changelessness, justice, mercy, grace, peace, compassion, and love. During those blessed hours, He will become your life in increasing reality. As His life replaces yours, you will find the fruit of the Spirit growing in you, replacing your ready anger, anxiety, worry, impatience, meanness, unbelief, pride, self-will, and self-striving.

First Things First

My beloved one, don't put off a moment longer letting God and implicit trust in Him begin to become your first priority. This is the God who is always working all things together for your benefit. I pray you will begin to learn to trust Him to bring good to you out of even the worst that can happen.

May He teach you to rest in peaceful reliance on Him, because He is entirely trustworthy. May you come in increasing confidence to know that in His care there can never be a need to be anxious, worried, or fearful.

But if you go on your way ignoring Him, putting your schedule, your desires, and your priorities ahead of Him and His and choosing to depend on yourself rather than on Him, you will never be able to believe He is totally trustworthy. You will never be able to believe He is entirely able to work all things together for your good. You will drastically limit your reception of the good He plans for you.

God will still be working everything for your benefit, but your stubborn heart will have given Him an unnecessary amount to do in your life, work that must be done in effective order from the bottom up. For instance, instead of being able to draw you to Himself in love, He may first have to work on bringing you back from your backsliding. To bring you back, He may have to allow unpleasant things to happen to you. But this, too, is part of working all things together for your good.

He Is Trustworthy

Believe that He can be trusted. Trust Him. Never question what He is doing or why for long. Rest fully in His love. Be preoccupied with His becoming your first priority.

Then, each time you recognize that you are mistrusting Him, look away from the problem to Him in quiet rest, peace, and trust. Whether your mistrust is expressed in anger or anxiety, impatience or fearfulness, self-will or self-striving, look away from the source of the irritation and from yourself. Look away to Jesus. Let all else fade from your vision. Rest in Him. So may you receive more and more of the eternal benefit He is planning for you.

Three Outstanding Benefits

This practice introduces at least three wonderful advantages into our daily walk with the Lord. First, whenever we surrender our circumstances gladly to Him, we find our attention returned to our Lord from wherever it may have wandered.

Second, whenever we gladly accept what He has sent our way, no matter how distasteful it may seem, we are again in the place of submission to the Lord. We are delivered from that reassertion of selfish independence that has such a devastating effect on our quest to walk always in loving harmony and unity with Him who is the very life of our life.

Third, offering the difficult circumstances back to the God who permitted them for our good and His glory encourages the generation of a quietness, rest, and peace, a gentleness and sensitivity, a kindness and compassion, a meekness and humility, a contentedness that we may have felt was not possible for us. This happy non-resistance has a marvelously liberating effect on the whole personality.

Wondrous Results

As resistance and rebellion are replaced by submission and responsiveness to His Spirit, we find the fruit of the Spirit spontaneously being formed within us. Then, wonder of wonders, we watch the overflow of the Lord from our lives into the lives of those around us.

We may be surprised at how some of those around us seem to grow in the Lord when they don't give Him nearly as much time and attention as we do. Could it be that they are benefiting from the overflow from our lives?

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By: Pastor Ron Marr

“God is for me.” Psalm 56:9

“I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content.” Philippians 4:11

We are seeking loving harmony and unity with God that permits His very life to become ours in actual practice. However, our awful independence still shows itself so often in so many ways, all of them acting as inhibitors to this loving harmony, unity, and flow of divine life that we seek.

Angry with God?

One of the ways we show our awful flesh is displeasure and even anger with God. Now, if you've never really become aware of inner anger against your Maker, the very thought may come as a shock. But, believe me, it's real.

We face pain, illness, financial difficulty, destructive personal relationships, or the loss of a loved one. The Lord permits in our lives circumstances in which we feel uncomfortable, anxious, pressured, fearful, hurt, or deprived. Even the memory of them afterward may be enough to make us angry. While we probably never have thought of it this way, such anger at the circumstances God permits us to endure is actually anger against God.

Obviously, such displeasure with God does not produce harmony and unity with our Lord, but rather separation. Recognized or not, such resentment against God secretly prevents us from yielding our loving, responsive attention to the Lord. We want to run away and hide from Him rather than commune with Him.

Such anger makes us judges of God rather than He of us. Reversing our roles, we have become our own gods. The real God who is our only hope seems untrustworthy, so we're left without hope. After all, who could want to trust an untrustworthy God? Our whole quest to come to God in love is curtailed. Of course, we find no rest or peace, either.

GOD REALLY CAN BE TRUSTED

Safely in Charge

One Saturday morning as I lay meditating on the things of God, slowly He began making a precious truth real to me: God can be trusted! I don't need to be afraid of Him or of anything He permits to come into my life. I needn't fear anything at all that might ever come my way. The rest of my life could be lived without anxiety if only I could see Him as He actually is, if I could never lose sight of Him.

God is love, and He loves me. Therefore, He doesn't want anything bad to happen to me.

God is omnipotent. Therefore, He doesn't have to let anything bad happen to me.

After more than forty years as a Christian and thirty years in the ministry, these truths were life-changing revelation to this poor sinner.

He Is in Control

But is He really in control in a sinning world? This question had to be answered if I were to continue believing and acting on this dynamic truth.

After all, God allowed man to sin. He has not yet brought the age of man's rebellion to a close. He's still permitting it to continue. We know this sinful rebellion against God is desperately destructive, disastrous, and deadly.

How can He really be in control, when He has apparently allowed sinners to take human will, and life, and circumstances out of His control?

We read His promise:

"And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose." Romans 8:28

Yes, we know we should accept anything He says without question, but there seems to be an unavoidable conflict here. The easiest response to this apparent paradox is to ignore the conflict and simply pretend we believe Romans 8:28 to be true. Still, in our heart of hearts we would remain convinced that at best there must be many exceptions and limitations.

That Saturday morning I was in no mood to resist God. He had allowed disaster to strike our lives. Through the circumstances, He had instilled in me a desire to know and experience all the benefits of His truth, whatever that might be. God had brought me to the place of complete dissatisfaction

with mere human reasoning. I simply accepted His Word. Still I had to find the answer to this question if I were to continue believing He is always working all things together for my good.

God Has Let Us Limit Him!

Do you have trouble with the idea of man limiting God? Just remember this: God can do anything except go against His own word or character. God chose to leave it to man to respond to His love. He won't force man to respond against his wishes. However, when anyone does respond to His love, the Lord is able to do what He wants for that person's benefit and His own praise, as He promises:

"Whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life."

John 4:14

God Is Sovereign

Somehow in His sovereign power, He is able to permit man to go on in his sin, with its attendant harm and hurt, and still keep His commitment to work out everything for the eternal benefit of each one of His children. A mammoth boost to our faith comes from the simple and comprehensive statement in Ephesians 1:11 that He "works all things according to the counsel of His will."

Did you get that? God boldly assures us that even in a rebel world, He's working everything out according to His own ultimate purposes. We don't have to understand that or grasp how it's possible. We have only to accept it! Believing it, we can rest content in the assurance that He's in charge of everything, working it all together for our eternal benefit. When we really accept that truth, we have no need to get angry, anxious, frustrated, or bitter about anything He allows to happen to us, no matter how catastrophic it may seem to be.

Excuses Aren't Allowed

That negative, angry responses will be ours on occasion is a fact. But the problem becomes acute when we fail to admit their existence or when we excuse or approve them. Such anger, such resistance toward the Almighty for permitting what we view as unacceptable simply must not be approved or excused.

No matter how justified in human eyes our reactions may seem, no matter how seemingly insignificant, human, or natural they appear, this resistance to God and the circumstances He permits must be recognized and forsaken. Our attitudes must also be seen as they truly are, resistance and anger toward almighty God who permitted those people and circumstances to be in our lives exactly as they are.

Loving Resignation

Seek, as He enables, to sacrifice back in loving submission to Him who gave them to you all the circumstances of your life. Aspire to

relinquish them all back to Him with contentment and thanksgiving. Covet nothing other than what He has chosen to send, no matter how distasteful it may seem.

A Better Way

In the years since the Saturday morning God revealed Himself to me as entirely trustworthy, I've been amazed to discover the importance attached to this transforming truth by many of the most godly Christian writers over the centuries. They differ doctrinally on many matters, but they agree that this truth, that we can trust God to work everything together for our benefit, is basic to our relationship with Him.

If we aren't able to trust Father God, what kind of relationship do we have with Him? If we say we can trust Him, but still feel He allows things that are permanently hurtful to happen to us, we're kidding ourselves. That spells disaster to our love relationship with our lovely Lord.

Trust Makes Room for Love

When we know He's in charge, we can see even the seemingly deliberate hurt brought on us by people to be allowed of God for our eternal benefit. Even that visited on us by our brothers and sisters in Christ can be viewed from God's perspective. So we can let God teach us to love those who hurt us, and say what our Lord and Stephen said when dying at their hands. "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do" (Luke 23:24). "Lay not this sin to their charge" (Acts 7:60 KJV).

An Eternal, Spiritual Perspective

We are not able to really believe He's always working all things together for our benefit if we have a perspective limited to time and space! We simply do not have the capacity in and of ourselves.

For example, I break my leg today. Then I lose a \$100 bill. Then someone rips into me and leaves me wondering what I did to deserve it. Then you ask me to believe that God has my best interests in mind!

What you are really asking me to do is to discover and develop the longer view, an eternal and spiritual perspective. Then I can see that God may simply be seeking to make me dependent on Him, submissive, humble, and loving. Then I can see that the benefit of those heart attitudes He's developing in me far outweigh the problem of the pain, the loss, and the anguish.

Then God can freely bless and benefit me. Then this blessing and benefit can flow out from me to others, now and eternally. I may even learn someday to say, "If this is the way You can best benefit me and others, and bring praise to Your name, it's alright if You need to do it again Lord. Thank