



How to Rely on God Through Difficult Times **- by Joyce Meyer**

Do you remember the last time you experienced a challenging or difficult situation? Maybe you're in the middle of one right now. We usually don't get excited about going through them. In fact, when trouble comes, we sometimes ask, "Why is this happening?"

Many times, things happen that we simply don't understand. But that's okay—God doesn't expect us to have everything figured out. We can trust that He knows and will take care of everything. He wants us to look to Him and say, "God, I have no idea what I'm going to do, but I'm trusting You to take care of me."

The truth is, when we are facing difficult situations that we don't understand, one of the best things we can do is to trust God. It allows Him to take the wrong things that have happened and work them out for our benefit. Romans 8:28 (NIV) says, And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

We can trust that He is with us through every challenge we face, and we are ultimately going to come out stronger in the end.

Over the years, God has taught me so much about what it means to trust Him. For example, years ago, I really had to trust God when He told me to quit my job so I could stay home and study God's Word more. Even though God was preparing me for full-time ministry, it was hard because we were short \$40 each month of what we needed just to pay our monthly bills.

For six years, we had to have a miracle every month in our finances, and it didn't make any sense to me at all why it was taking so long for our breakthrough. But God was teaching me how to trust Him for everything. I look back now and know that God was using this situation for my good and preparing me to do what I'm doing in ministry now.

Getting Comfortable with Not Knowing

I have learned from personal experience that putting my trust in God means there will be some unanswered questions. That was a hard lesson for me because I naturally want to understand

everything...to know what's going on so I can feel like I'm in control.

It's just human nature to try and figure things out. So, when we're in the middle of a situation, we can quickly find ourselves trying to reason our way through it. We generally want to know "Why, God, why?" or "When, God, when?" We want to know now how everything is going to work out.

But when we trust God, we have to get comfortable with not knowing everything—not knowing how God is going to accomplish what needs to be done and not knowing when He will do it.

Instead, God wants to direct our paths (see Psalm 23:3; Psalm 37:23), and that means He sometimes leads us in ways that don't make sense to us. If we try to figure everything out, we will experience struggle and confusion. But there is a better way.

Instead, we can completely lean on Him, believing He wants what's best for us. I know it's easier said than done, especially when "life" happens—when we can't quite see how everything's going to work out and we're tempted to take matters into our own hands.

But Proverbs 3:5-8 says, Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight...

Entering God's Rest

Saying we trust God is one thing, but when we really trust Him and lean on Him, we enter His rest. It's a special kind of rest that you can have even in the middle of difficult circumstances. Everything doesn't have to be perfect and you don't have to have all the answers, but you are trusting God to take care of you.

Most of us have spent our lives trying to take care of ourselves, but we must learn to trust our lives to His care. When we try to do things in our own strength and leave God out, we just get worn-out and frustrated. But when we fully lean on God, it brings us His peace. When we stop trying to figure everything out, God can be God in our life.

I want to encourage you to trust God completely in every area of your life. Remember that He is always on your side and He is fighting for you as you go through the challenges in your life. He loves you and has your best interest at heart at all times, and He is close to you when you're hurting most (Psalm 34:18).