

TURNING TO JESUS WITH OUR DIFFICULTIES

“Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind.”

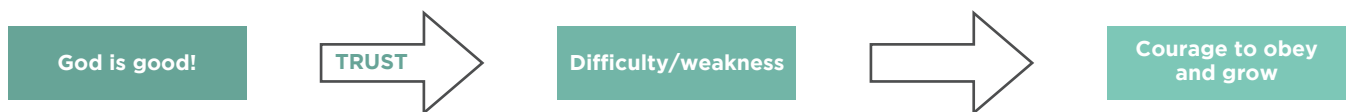
James 1:2-6

Below, we find two different ways we can deal with difficult circumstances and weaknesses in our life:

Paradigm 1: Our circumstances determine how we relate to God. If things are going well, God is good! If things are not going well, we fear God might not be good and tend to drown in insecurity, self-doubt, sin, and other unhealthy patterns.



Paradigm 2: Our relationship with God determines how we relate to our circumstances. Since Jesus demonstrates we can trust God’s character and is with us all the time, we turn to Him with our difficulties and weaknesses. When things are not going well, we find the courage to obey, resiliency, and opportunities to grow through difficult times.



“Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. 9 But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me. 10 That is why, for Christ’s sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.”

2 Corinthians 12:8-10

“Lord, I believe! Help me with my doubts!”

Mark 9:24, MSG