

## Look Up

By Kathy Rebsch



There are times when things seem to be happening exactly opposite to what God has promised, and it can be unsettling for Christians. Sometimes, it can give the impression that God is rewarding evil and punishing the righteous. As believers, we know nothing could be farther from the truth. Psalm 37 assures us “Do not fret because of evildoers, nor be envious of the workers of iniquity. For they shall soon be cut down like the grass, and wither as the green herb.” All of Psalm 37 speaks of God punishing the wicked and rewarding the righteous.

In the cacophony of both secular and Christian voices during turbulent times, we can easily get sidetracked and misunderstand what God is doing. The voices are many - some that sound believable and biblical – and in our eagerness to find understanding, we may quickly agree with an explanation that seems to make sense. More times than not, however, the voice of condemnation is a quick default that the body of Christ applies to satisfy the question of “WHY, God?” Invariably, the cries of “the church is at fault!” Or “You didn’t pray enough!” Or do enough for God!” Or, “That prophet got it wrong!” are heard loud and clear among the brethren. The danger with that is, aside from condemnation and pointing fingers, it brings the focus back on us, instead of Jesus, and we can end up back on the treadmill of dead works. Certainly we should pray and do for God. However, our “good works” are a byproduct of being saved and should be Holy Spirit driven, not born out of guilt or condemnation. In this time of fast food, internet, and instant communication, we want answers and we want them now.

However, sometimes we simply don’t know what God is doing because He chooses not to tell us. Or it may just be His timing. Or He is bringing about the promise in a way we have not considered. His ways are higher than our ways as declared in Isaiah 55:8-9. As Christians, it is imperative to have a solid foundation of grace so that we trust God and walk completely persuaded that He is a good God Who

wants to bless us and take us through to our destinies, regardless if we understand what He is doing at the moment or not.

We, as humans, are a curious lot, and I believe God created us that way so that we seek Him. However, it is good to be mindful not to succumb to distractions. We all have been called to a God-given destiny, and by His grace we will cross the finish line. Jesus was focused on His destiny, and as His followers, we should do the same. As Jesus said in Luke 2:49, “...I must be about My Father’s business.”

But how do we trust God and move in the understanding of His grace when things happen that may shake the very foundations of our faith? How do we become persuaded in God’s love for us - no matter what - as Paul declared in Romans 8:38-39?: “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 created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Our Lord.”

Reading the word of God is foundational, of course, but Jesus sent us a Helper. We would not have true understanding (rhema) of the word of God without the Holy Spirit. In John 16:13, Jesus said that the Holy Spirit will guide us into all truth. It was so important to Jesus that we receive the Holy Spirit, that He explained in John 16:7: “Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send him to you.”

Help comes from the Hebrew word Ezer - The same Hebrew word used in Helpmate in Genesis 2:18: “And the Lord God said, ‘It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him.’” And, as in marriage, our relationship with the Helper is meant to be intimate. It’s personal. God sent Himself again to earth in the third person of the Trinity and the Holy Spirit is here for us, no matter what. All we have to do is ask. The bible says in Luke 11:13 “If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!”



### *The Chosen: Season 1 – 2019*



Director Dallas Jenkins will tell you this not a substitute for the Bible. A lot of the plot follows the spirit of the scriptures, but at times add beautifully created assumptions to bring the characters to life. The Chosen is beautiful and adds so much rich cultural context to make you realize these were real people, with real problems, with real heart. You might think that there's no point in doing another show about the Gospels. The Chosen is something different. In fact, the first tag line used by the show was "Get Used To Different" which was a reference to how the show is being produced and created - namely, divorced from any prevailing popular culture sentiment about what being a "Christian" entails. Instead the creative team has chosen to produce a show that simply follows the written accounts of the life of Jesus from the Bible. There are almost no well-known actors involved with The Chosen. Every role is filled by a person who seems to be completely earnest and committed to portraying their assigned character with the utmost respect and humility. The show is so absorbing and entertaining that it doesn't feel like any other Bible based TV show I've ever seen. It is the BEST TV series about the life of Jesus to date. Looking forward to Season Two!



### *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind - 2019*

*The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind* is based on the true story of William Kamkwamba (Maxwell Simba), a 13-year-old boy living in a small village in Malawi, Africa, who created a device that would restore the land and save his people after flooding ruined their grain fields. This drama is somewhat gritty but definitely worth the watch. The movie's source material is Kamkwamba's same-named book. Both English and Chewa (subtitled) are spoken in the film, which has clear, strong themes of perseverance, courage, curiosity, and integrity.

