

Psalm 31:14-15 ¹⁴ *But I trusted in thee, O Lord: I said, "Thou art my God.* ¹⁵ ***My times are in thy hand*** [You control the length of my life and everything that happens to me]: *deliver me from the hand of mine enemies, and [deliver me] from [the hand of] them that persecute me."*

I. Introduction: God's people will experience trouble just like everyone else

A. David gave the reason in verse 9 why he wrote verses 14-15

Psalm 31:9 *Have mercy upon me, O LORD, for I am in trouble: mine eye is consumed with grief, yea, my soul and my belly* [The pressure on me is causing my vision to be blurred, my stomach to be upset and my soul to want to quit].

1. David feels like he is in trouble
2. He feels like his body aches & he's consumed with grief

B. David had many life experiences with troubles

1. As shepherd, he killed a lion, bear, & even the giant Goliath
2. As King Saul's son-in-law
 - a. King Saul became jealous of David
 - b. King Saul tried to kill David several times
 - c. David ran for his life & hid from Saul
3. When he was king, David's son Absalom rebelled against him
 - a. Absalom proclaimed himself king
 - b. David ran out of Jerusalem in fear for his life
 - c. Absalom pursued his father to kill him
 - d. King David had troubles with other sons & daughters due to his own sins

C. Current times in society today

1. Everyone is stressed because of the COVID virus and quarantines
2. Political, economic, & social woes in these troublesome times
3. Christians offer hope to the world around them

II. My Times

A. Changing seasons of life all have their own pressures

1. Childhood has its own stresses, mostly social
2. Young adulthood adds the stress of pending adulthood to the pressures of childhood

3. The season of life as working adults raising a family add the stresses of providing for children to all the previous pressures of life
4. Senior/retirement years bring many health issues and the confrontation of our own mortality

B. Personal times: My times are in God's hands

1. Life happens
 - a. Sometimes I feel in control of my life
 - b. Other times I have unanticipated events in my life that cause grief or distress
2. Bible full of stories of people & events in their lives
3. Thankfully God is stable & does not change

Malachi 3:6 *For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob [meaning God's people who are disobedient] are not consumed.*

III. God's Hands reveal to us how God takes special care of His people

A. God's character

1. God's attributes
 - a. Omnipotence: God is all powerful (see Jeremiah 32:17)
 - b. Omnipresence: God is present everywhere (see Jeremiah 23:23, 24)
 - c. Omniscience: God is all knowing (see Psalm 147:5)

2. God's characteristics

- a. Immanence: God in the world

Acts 17:27 *That they [the people of the earth] should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him [if they might reach out to Him], and find him, though he be not far from every one of us:*

Matthew 1:23 *Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, **God with us.***

- b. Immutability: God never changes (see Malachi 3:6 above)

James 1:17 *Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, **with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning** [for He never changes no matter what perspective He is viewed from].*

- c. Impassibility: God does not experience sudden emotional changes like humans, does not make bad emotional decisions

Numbers 23:19 *God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent* [that He changes His mind]: *hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?* [If God says something, He will do it; if God promises something, He will make sure it happens.]

- d. Impeccability (Holiness): God cannot & does not sin

1 Samuel 2:2 *There is none holy as the LORD: for there is none beside thee: neither is there any rock like our God.*

1 Peter 2:22-23 ²² *Who* [Jesus] *did no sin, neither was guile* [deceit] *found in his mouth: ²³Who, when he was reviled* [criticized angrily], *reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously:*

- e. Incomprehensibility: God cannot be fully understood by man

Isaiah 55:9 *For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.*

- f. Incorporeality: God has no physical form

Isaiah 40:18 *To whom then will ye liken God* [What example can you give so that someone can understand God]? *or what likeness* [physical form] *will ye compare unto him?*

John 4:24 *God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.*

B. God's is sovereign

1. Sovereign means "ruling over all things"
2. Related to God being all powerful
3. God rules over all times & seasons

Daniel 2:20-21 ²⁰ *Daniel answered* [responded to the vision God had just given to him] *and said, "Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever: for wisdom and might are his: ²¹ And he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding."*

4. God rules over all nations

Job 12:23 *He increaseth the nations, and destroyeth them: he enlargeth the nations, and straiteneth* [reduces] *them again.*

5. God rules the times of my personal life

Ecclesiastes 3:1, 10 ¹ *To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: ... ¹⁰ I have seen the travail, which God hath given to the sons of men to be exercised in it* [I have seen the hard work which God has given to people to keep them busy in this life].

C. God is personal and knows your circumstances

1. Personal confession

a. David called God his personal God in so many ways

Psalm 18:2 *The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler [God is what I hide behind for protection], and the horn of my salvation [God is what I cling to when I am in trouble], and my high tower [God is the place I go when I am in danger].*

b. God is the Creator of each person

Isaiah 45:18 *For thus saith the LORD that created the heavens; God himself that formed the earth and made it; he hath established it, he created it not in vain [God did not create the earth without a purpose], he formed it to be inhabited: I am the LORD; and there is none else.*

c. But He is also the Savior of each person

Isaiah 43:11 *I, even I, am the LORD; and beside me there is no savior.*

Acts 4:12 *Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name [Jesus] under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved [for there is only one name that men can call out to on earth so they can be saved].*

d. But God invites each person to come into His family

John 1:12 *But as many as received him [Jesus], to them gave he power to become the sons of God [But all the people who received Him were given power to become the sons of God], even to them that believe on his name:*

e. Anyone can call upon God's name

Romans 10:13 *For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.*

f. Human responsibility to personally trust God

Romans 10:9-10 ⁹ *That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. ¹⁰ For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*

2. Personal call (an example of how God knows your circumstances)

a. Jesus walking on the water – Matthew 14:22-32, Mark 6:45-52, John 6:15-21

- i. Jesus finished feeding over 5000 people
- ii. Disciples were told by Jesus to leave & sail across Sea of Galilee towards Capernaum; Jesus wanted to stay behind and pray
- iii. While the disciples were sailing a great contrary wind blowing against the boat at night

- iv. They saw Jesus walking on the water, as if He were going to pass by their boat
 - v. They were extremely worried & afraid for their lives
 - vi. They call out to Jesus; He comes to them and gets into their boat.
 - vii. Immediately the storm ceased; the disciples are amazed
 - viii. Sometimes God sends Christian into unseen circumstances so we can learn to trust His ways, regardless of the situation
- b. We can prepare our hearts before times of trouble
- i. David knew God before any crisis came into his life. David made the decision to trust God in his youth
 - ii. Joseph lived as slave from age 17 to age 30, but knew God was in control of his circumstances.
 - iii. God is never overwhelmed or unsure of what to do next.
 - iv. In all times we are to give thanks
1 Thessalonians 5:18 ***In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.***
 - v. Christians need to continuously stay connected to God
John 15:5 *I [Jesus] am the vine, ye [disciples, Christians] are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same [that person] bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.*
 - vi. God wants Christian to live fruitful life
John 15:8 *Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.*

IV. Conclusion

A. Christian response?

1. Trust God? or Attitude with God because you don't like your circumstances?
2. Natural response to blame God for bad events
3. Guard against natural pushing away from God (the "I can handle this situation by myself" attitude) when trouble is near.

B. Trust in the living God

1. Trust in God in your day of trouble

Nahum 1:7 *The LORD is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble; and he knoweth them that trust in him.*

2. Trust in God who raises the dead back to life

2 Corinthians 1:9 *But we* [Paul and his companions] *had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God which raiseth the dead:*

3. Trust in God who is Savior for all men

1 Timothy 4:10 *For therefore we* [all Christians] *both labor* [in the work God has selected us to do] *and suffer reproach* [because we are working for God and not our own interests], *because we trust in the living God, who is the Savior of all men, specially of those that believe.*