**When Life Gives You Lemons….**

1. Does God promise Christians will have an easy life?
2. Ecclesiastes 7:14 In the day of prosperity be joyful, but in the day of adversity, consider: God has made the one as well as the other.
3. John 16:33 - These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world.
4. 2 Timothy 3:1 But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come.
5. What about missionaries and pastors? Are they promised an easy life because they answered God’s calling? (Jim Elliot -Ecuador; use other examples)
* Paul – shared Jesus with Roman guards while imprisoned. With guard changes, 2 years of imprisonment 2,920 opportunities to share one on one. Philippians 1:12-14. Now I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that what has happened to me has actually served to advance the gospel. As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ. And because of my chains, most of the brothers and sisters have become confident in the Lord and dare all the more to proclaim the gospel without fear.
* Joseph – imprisoned, but able to save a nation
1. Who is in control?
2. How many things in your life do you control? Weather? Traffic? What others say and do?
3. Consider the camera and the lens. Everything that happens in our lives is father-filtered.
* 1 Corinthians 10:13 No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.
* Philippians 4:19 And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.
1. God is in control. Philippians 1:6 - He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.
2. So how to we respond in difficult times?

1. Consider it joy.

* How many times is joy is in the Bible? 165 times.
* James 1:2 - Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials.
1. Help others.
* Proverbs 17:17 - A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.
* Philippians 1:27 Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ.
1. Remember who is in control.
* Philippians 4:13 - I can do all things through him who strengthens me.
* Romans 8:28 And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.
* Jeremiah 29:11 For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.
* Proverbs 3:5-6 Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.
* 1 Peter 5:7 Casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.
* Philippians 4:6-7 - Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Want even more?

1. 2 Corinthians 12:9-10 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 of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.
2. James 1:2-4 Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.
3. John 14:27 Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.
4. Isaiah 43:2-3 When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.
5. Psalm 46:1-2 God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way, though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea.
6. 2 Chronicles 7:14 If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.
7. 2 Timothy 3:1-5 But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people.

FULLY RELY ON GOD! (FROG)

**Believe by Hillsong**

You are my light

You are my strength

You are my Rock

On You I stand

I lift my voice

I raise my hands

I lift my soul

With all I am

In Christ forever I'll stand

I will believe

You are strong enough

In my weakness

God be lifted up

And I will sing

Lift Your praises high

Lord be magnified

You make all things new

I will believe

So, hear this song

Receive our praise

You are our strength

For all our days

We lift You up

Our voices high

In every storm

Let God arise

Oh, Your love

Your love it never fails

Your love, it knows no end

Your love will never fail

Oh, Your love

Stronger than my shame

Greater than my pain

Your love will never fail

I will believe

**We Praise You – Bethel Music**

Let praise be a weapon that silences the enemy

Let praise be a weapon that conquers all anxiety

Let it rise, let praise arise

We sing Your name in the dark and it changes everything

We sing with all we are and we claim Your victory

Let it rise, let praise arise

We'll see You break down every wall

We'll watch the giants fall

Fear cannot survive when we praise You

The God of breakthrough's on our side

Forever we lift Him high

With all creation cry, God, we praise You

Oh, we praise You

Oh

Let faith be the song that overcomes the raging sea

Let faith be the song that calms the storm inside of me

Let it rise, let faith arise

Let it rise

We'll see You break down every wall

We'll watch the giants fall

Fear cannot survive when we praise You

The God of breakthrough's on our side

Forever lift Him high

With all creation cry, God, we praise You

Oh, we praise You

This is what living looks like

This is what freedom feels like

This is what Heaven sounds like

We praise You, we praise

We'll see You break down every wall

We'll watch the giants fall

Fear cannot survive when we praise You

The God of breakthrough's on our side

Forever lift Him high

With all creation cry, God, we praise You

We'll see You break down every wall

We'll watch the giants fall

'Cause fear cannot survive when we praise You

The God of breakthrough's on our side

Forever lift Him high

With all creation cry, God, we praise You

Oh, we praise You

Oh, we praise You

Oh, we praise You

Oh, we praise You

I can't hold back my praise

I got to let it out

[x10]

This is what living looks like

This is what freedom feels like

This is what Heaven sounds like

We praise You, we praise you