

When Everything's Against You

Sometime God will send you into a place or circumstance where it feels like everything's against you!

You may not feel or see God in the fiery trial of your life, but *if God has allowed it*, there are *always blessings* to be found in it, and *others will see Jesus* because of what you *go through*.

Today we gather under the weight of a common human experience:

- The moment when *the walls seem to close in*, when *circumstances align in opposition* to *our peace*, *our plans*, or *our very faith*.
- It's the feeling of being *outnumbered, misunderstood, or abandoned*.
- We've *all* been there, *standing on the edge of despair*, *wondering if God sees us*, if *He cares*, or if *the tide will ever turn*.

When Everything's Against You is not a message of quick fixes or simple answers, but one of enduring truth drawn from Scripture.

We are going to walk through several biblical accounts that demonstrate God's presence and provision precisely when His people felt most isolated.

Our faith tells us that even when the world is against us, God is for us.

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*****A reminder of God's sovereign control!**

The God Who Goes Before - *When you feel boxed in, it's easy to believe that your situation is a surprise to God.*

- But the truth is, **God is already at work...**
- **Preparing a way** *before you arrive* at the roadblock.

Consider the Triumphal Entry of Jesus

- Jesus needed a specific colt.
- The disciples were given **uncanny, precise instructions**:

Mark 11:2 *"Go into the village opposite you; and as soon as you have entered it you will find a colt tied, on which no one has sat".*

- **This wasn't luck;** it was divine orchestration.
- The Lord had **already arranged the situation**.

The remarkable specificity of this command highlights that **God knows exactly where our provision is, and He has already prepared the way!**

- **The Colt was there, tied up just as He said.**
- **In your moment of need, when obstacles stack up,**
- **Remember that the Lord sees the end from the beginning.**

He orchestrates events with divine precision, often preparing resources and people for our path before we even arrive!

This moment fulfills an ancient prophecy from written centuries earlier:

Zechariah 9:9 - The Coming of Zion's King - Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion! Shout, Daughter Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and victorious, lowly and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

When your path seems blocked, remember that God is sovereign over seemingly random circumstances.

Like loss of a marriage, job, restructuring, loved one, or unforeseen things...

What looked like a devastating end was God orchestrating a new beginning.

- **Preparing the colt tied up where NO man sat, just around the corner.**
- **He knows the end from the beginning.**
- **Before you even face the trial, He has a plan in motion!!!**

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*****The Peace in the Presence Feeling "against the world" is a deeply isolating experience.**

The enemy wants you to believe you are alone, abandoned to the flames of your tribulation.

But the Lord promises His presence in the furnace itself.

When it feels like the heat is on, we look at the three Hebrew boys:

Daniel 3:25 “But I see four men walking around in the fire,” the king replied.

“None of them is tied up or harmed, and the fourth one looks like a god.”

Look at Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, who refused to bow to an idol and were cast into a superheated furnace.

They stood firm in their faith, and God met them in the flames.

- It doesn't say they saw God in or before or after the flames!!!
- BUT they stood firm in their FAITH!!!!

When King Nebuchadnezzar looked in, he was astonished.

- He saw not three men, but four, walking unbound amid the fire.
- The fourth looked *"like the Son of God"....*
- The flames were hot, but God's presence was hotter than the flames.
- The fire couldn't consume them, only what bound them....

When Everything Is Against You, you are NEVER ALONE!

- The Son of God steps into your fire with you!
- Your trials DOES NOT separate you from God's presence!
- Instead, it becomes the place where His presence is most evident!
- You may feel isolated/abandoned, but Heaven has joined you in the fire!

David also found solace in God's presence during times of fear and opposition:

Psalm 56:3-4 - 3 When I am afraid, I put my trust in you. 4 In God, whose word I praise—in God I trust and am not afraid. What can mere mortals do to me?

5 All day long they twist my words; all their schemes are for my ruin. 6 They conspire, they lurk, they watch my steps, hoping to take my life. 7 Because of their wickedness do not let them escape; in your anger, God, bring the nations down. 8

Record my misery; list my tears on your scroll—are they not in your record? 9

Then my enemies will turn back when I call for help. By this I will know that God is for me.

David declared his trust in God when afraid, choosing not to fear what man could do to him because he would praise God's word.

- He had confidence, his enemies would turn back when he cried out...
- Knowing that God was for him.

David understood persecution intimately.

- He was hunted by Saul. Betrayed by those close to Him.
- He was often in deep distress.
- YET, he made a choice to TRUST rather than FEAR...

When Everything Is Against You – your greatest weapon is your unwavering trust in God's character and His promises.

- We are called to cast our burdens upon Him.
- He does keep a careful account of our sorrows and tears!

David had the reassuring presence of the Lord walking beside him in his trials!

- NO MATTER what his adversaries tried. The Fire Could NOT HARM him...

This act of trust doesn't remove the struggle, but it provides an unshakable foundation amidst the shaking world.

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***The Purpose in the Pain – Perhaps the hardest truth to grasp in times of trial is that God can work even our pain for good.

It can feel like chaos when everything is against you—like all systems are breaking down and working against your good.

This is where we lean on one of the most powerful promises in all of Scripture:

The Apostle Paul, no stranger to hardship, pens this comforting scripture - Greater Purpose Romans 8:28 "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"

- Notice it doesn't say "some things" or "easy things." It says all things.

When the immediate situation looks bleak, rest in the assurance of God's overarching purpose.

The current situation IS NOT the end of the story!

- This truth doesn't negate the pain, but it redeems the purpose of it.
- *Pain is purposeful when viewed through the lens of God's sovereign hand.*

Example: *Think of the countless testimonies of those who have battled addiction, hit rock bottom, and had everything stripped away from them.*

- But after finding faith, they found sobriety.
- Creating support groups, mentorship programs.
- Now they help others navigate the same dark path.

Their greatest pain became their most powerful purpose!

- God uses our deepest struggles to bring about good!
- We now save lives and bring others too Christ!!!

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*****The Victory in the Betrayal - Jesus himself experienced the highest form of being "against."**

Mark 11:8-9 - *Many people spread their cloaks on the road, while others spread branches they had cut in the fields. 9 Those who went ahead and those who followed shouted, "Hosanna!" "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!"*

- One week the crowds were laying their cloaks and branches on the road,
- Shouting *"Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!"*
- It was a moment of public acclamation.

Just days later, in the garden, a crowd with swords and clubs came for Him.

Matthew 26:47-50 - Jesus Arrested - 47 While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, arrived. With him was a large crowd armed with swords and clubs, sent from the chief priests and the elders of the people.

48 Now the betrayer had arranged a signal with them: "The one I kiss is the man; arrest him." 49 Going at once to Jesus, Judas said, "Greetings, Rabbi!" and kissed him. 50 Jesus replied, "Do what you came for, friend."

Then the men stepped forward, seized Jesus and arrested him.

- He was identified by a kiss of betrayal from one of His closest friends, Judas
- In that moment, humanly speaking, **Everything was against Him!**
- ***The religious leaders, the Roman authorities, the fickle crowd, and even a betraying disciple.***

Ultimate Betrayal!

- Jesus DID NOT fight back with force!
- He surrendered to the divine plan!
- THE CROSS, became the ultimate symbol of "all things being against you."
- It became the ultimate symbol of God's redemptive power!!!!

But the betrayal was not the end.

- The world screams for us to fight back.
- Seek revenge!!!
- Make them pay!

But to the believer, we choose a different path:

- Forgiveness and relinquishment of the right to vengeance.
- Releasing anger and pain to God.
- We trust Him to handle the Justice!!!

The cross was not the defeat. It was the pathway to resurrection and salvation for all mankind.

What looked like total opposition was the unfolding of God's redemptive plan.

This choice, which seems weak to the world, is actually where God's power and peace are perfectly realized.

CLOSE:

Standing Strong in the Storm - When Everything's Against You

Remember these four anchors for your soul:

- 1. God goes before you—He's already orchestrated your next steps!***
 - 2. God is with you—His presence changes the dynamic in the fire!***
 - 3. God works for your good—There is purpose in the pain!***
 - 4. God brings victory—Opposition is often just the setup for His greatest triumph!***
- Do not despair.
 - Do not lose heart.
 - Do not let the feeling of isolation overwhelm you.

Trust in the Lord with all your heart!!!

- When you are weak, He is strong.
- When everything is against you, remember that God is for you.
- And if God is for us, who can be against us?

When everything is against you, God is still for you!