



Job 42:2 "I know that Thou canst do all things, and that no purpose of Thine can be thwarted.

Romans 8:28 And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to [His] purpose.

What do we do now?

Uncertainty. Unexpected change. Crushed. Burdened. These are realities which we would rather leave out of our vocabulary. Feeling unsettled or doubting what you have counted on in the past is difficult. Imagine Job looking around, recognizing nothing was as before. What he had known was drastically altered. What was his response?

Trust. Faith. God understands all things and beholds all things in His hands. When we feel unsettled, God is still the same. In Him, we have certain hope. In times of uncertainty and unexpected change, when confusion threatens to overtake your thoughts, how will you respond? If your trust has been placed in Jesus alone, be reminded He is without change and your foundation remains secure in Him. He is the true Cornerstone, not a building, no persons, no things – Jesus alone.

Job says he knows that God can do all things. To know, *yada*, is to determine something by observation, recognition, or instruction. It means to have knowledge and understanding, to be sure of something. God is able to do all things – anything and everything He desires. This speaks of His power. God will bring about His purpose regardless of man's bumbled inefficiencies.

When circumstances are difficult to understand, are you able to say as Job did that you know God can do all things?

Jeremiah 32:27 "Behold, I am the LORD, the God of all flesh; is anything too difficult for Me?"

Notice the words ***I Am*** in the previous verse. This is present tense. God is alive and currently at work in His domain.

God's power over His creation is unlimited.

God's wisdom is infinite.

There is certainty in God's almighty power and perfect plan. We, as people, have a limited view of all things. We are only able to see what is directly in front of us, we are only able to perceive the little we understand which is faulty at best. *Think!* How well do we understand our own heart and motivation? We can hardly begin to try and figure out someone else!

When we submit to God's control and His plan, we acknowledge His sovereign power and authority. Then, we are blessed with peace that goes beyond understanding.

Philippians 4:7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, shall guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

When we humble ourselves before God, place Him at the throne of all things, squash our need to understand details, and focus our attention on His glory, then our response to trouble is an increase in our faith and trust in Him.

God will execute His purpose for His glory. "I am abundantly satisfied that Thy power is as large as Thy will; and that nothing can hinder Thee from affecting everything which Thou designest: but as

Thou hadst reason to cast me down, so Thou canst restore me and lift me up again”, *Patrick/Lowth/Whitby/Lowman Commentary*.

Isaiah 46:9-10 "Remember the former things long past, For I am God, and there is no other; [I am] God, and there is no one like Me, declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things which have not been done, saying, 'My purpose will be established, and I will accomplish all My good pleasure'

We may be surprised by trouble; however God is not. He will use all things for good to those who love Him to cause us to grow in our likeness of Him. Read Paul's words –

Romans 8:28 And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to [His] purpose.

“They [trials] take off our affections from this world; they teach us the truth about our frail, transitory, and dying condition; they lead us to look to God for support, and to heaven for a final home; and they produce a subdued spirit, a humble temper, a patient, tender, and kind disposition”, *Albert Barnes' NT Commentary*.

What is God's purpose? – That men be saved for His glory. We can easily get caught up in *our* goals, *our* plans, '*our*' world, and *our* 'rights' but this thinking is misdirected. This life is not about us; it is about God.

Galatians 2:20 "I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the [life] which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me, and delivered Himself up for me.

Revelation 4:11 "Worthy art Thou, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for Thou didst create all things, and because of Thy will they existed, and were created."

God's sustaining power and His perfect plan is not based on what we think, how faithful or determined we are, or how strong we trust. It is based on Who He Is, His thoughts, His faithfulness, His plan, and His inerrancy. How big is your God?

Jeremiah 32:17 'Ah Lord GOD! Behold, Thou hast made the heavens and the earth by Thy great power and by Thine outstretched arm! Nothing is too difficult for Thee,

Matthew Poole's Commentary on Romans 8:28 reads, “*We know that all things, &c.* It is not matter of guess only and conjecture, but of certainty and assurance”.

We can accept the times of upheaval in our lives as an opportunity to give glory to God who is working out His plan through His people for His purpose.

Faith in God leads to trust in God through all uncertainty and change. He is unwavering in His purpose therefore we can stand firm in Him.

What can we do now?

Show compassion towards those who are hurting.

Respond to questions with Truth rather than opinion or speculation.

Guide questions to the source of their subject, (*i.e. the elders*).

Encourage and support one another to keep on keeping on, looking to “Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith” (*Hebrews 12:2*).