

"Life is difficult."

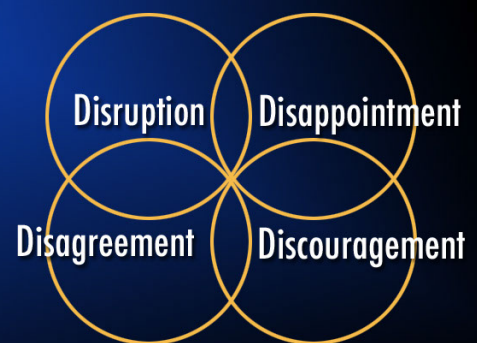
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"Difficulties of life complicate our relationships."

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"Marriage halves our griefs, doubles our joys,  
and quadruples our expenses."

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"We have been poisoned by fairy tales."  
—ANNAIS NIN

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Now there was a certain man of Ramathaim  
Zophim, of the mountains of Ephraim,  
and his name was Elkanah the son of Jeroham,  
the son of Elihu, the son of Tohu, the son of Zuph,  
an Ephraimite. And he had two wives:  
the name of one was Hannah, and the name of  
the other Peninnah. Peninnah had children, but  
Hannah had no children.

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This man went up from his city yearly to worship and sacrifice to the LORD of hosts in Shiloh. Also the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, the priests of the LORD, were there. And whenever the time came for Elkanah to make an offering, he would give portions to Peninnah his wife and to all her sons and daughters.

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But to Hannah he would give a double portion, for he loved Hannah, although the LORD had closed her womb. And her rival also provoked her severely, to make her miserable, because the LORD had closed her womb. So it was, year by year, when she went up to the house of the LORD, that she provoked her; therefore she wept and did not eat. —1 SAMUEL 1:1-7

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"In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes."

—JUDGES 21:25

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Observe a Crisis in a Flawed Marriage

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"There is much pain that is quite noiseless; and vibrations that make human agonies are often a mere whisper in the roar of hurrying existence." —GEORGE ELIOT

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Then Elkanah her husband said to her, "Hannah, why do you weep? Why do you not eat? And why is your heart grieved? Am I not better to you than ten sons?" —1 SAMUEL 1:8

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## Hear the Prayer of a Desperate Woman

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## 1 Samuel 1:9-16

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Prayer is...

Petitioning God with our needs.

15.tif

Prayer is...

Waiting on God through our struggles.

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Prayer is...

Believing God will always prove faithful and true.

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"I sympathize with those who find it difficult to trust God in adversity. I have been there often enough myself to know something of the distress, the despair, and the darkness that fills our souls when we wonder if God truly cares about our plight."

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"I have spent a good portion of my adult life encouraging people to pursue holiness; to obey God. Yet, I acknowledge it often seems more difficult to trust God than to obey God. The moral will of God given to us in the Bible is rational and reasonable."

19.tif

"The circumstances in which we must trust God often appear irrational and inexplicable... Yet, it is just as important to trust God as it is to obey Him. When we disobey God we defy His authority and despise His holiness. But when we fail to trust God we doubt His sovereignty and question His goodness." —JERRY BRIDGES

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Trust a Sovereign God with  
Your Greatest Life Challenge

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Then they rose early in the morning and worshiped before the LORD, and returned and came to their house at Ramah. And Elkanah knew Hannah his wife, and the LORD remembered her.  
—1 SAMUEL 1:19

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TRUST A SOVEREIGN GOD WITH YOUR GREATEST LIFE CHALLENGE

God is sovereign in His judgment.

23.tif

Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out! "For who has known the mind of the LORD? Or who has become His counselor?"  
—ROMANS 11:33-34

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TRUST A SOVEREIGN GOD WITH YOUR GREATEST LIFE CHALLENGE

God is infinite in His wisdom.

25.tif

"For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways," says the LORD.  
"For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts."

—ISAIAH 55:8-9

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TRUST A SOVEREIGN GOD WITH YOUR GREATEST LIFE CHALLENGE

God is perfect in His love.

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Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

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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 Jesus our Lord.

—ROMANS 8:35, 38-39

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Then they slaughtered a bull, and brought the child to Eli. And she said, "O my lord! As your soul lives, my lord, I am the woman who stood by you here, praying to the LORD. For this child I prayed, and the LORD has granted me my petition which I asked of Him."

—1 SAMUEL 1:25-27

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"Those things that hurt, instruct."

—BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

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"God will allow us to travel pathways  
we would have never chosen  
in order to experience  
blessings we could  
never have comprehended."

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