

(Clip) Why God Will Not Shield You from Every Sorrow

by John Piper

This sermon delves into the concept of God's answers being found within non-answers in the lives of believers, drawing parallels to the story of Joseph in the Bible. It explores the common experience of praying for protection or prevention of negative events, only to witness those events unfold, yet recognizing God's hand at work for good and grace in the midst of the trials. The sermon emphasizes that God's way often involves allowing His people to face perilous situations, with the ultimate purpose of bringing about a God-exalting rescue.

Scripture: Genesis 50:20, Psalm 34:17, Proverbs 16:9, Romans 8:28, 2 Corinthians 12:9, James 1:2

Topics: "God's Sovereignty", "Trusting in God's Plan"

Description

This sermon delves into the concept of God's answers being found within non-answers in the lives of believers, drawing parallels to the story of Joseph in the Bible. It explores the common experience of praying for protection or prevention of negative events, only to witness those events unfold, yet recognizing God's hand at work for good and grace in the midst of the trials. The sermon emphasizes that God's way often involves allowing His people to face perilous situations, with the ultimate purpose of bringing about a God-exalting rescue.

Transcript

So let me try to illustrate when I say every child of God, that's our story. I'll use my experience and then we'll close with the experience of Jesus, which is a million times more important than mine. When I say that the story of Joseph is the story of your life as a Christian, what I mean is something like this.

It comes in answering the question, why do we so often pray, say at the beginning of the day, that such and such won't happen? Breakdown of a car, getting sick with the disease, that some bad thing won't happen. Why do we so often pray that some bad thing won't happen? And then in the afternoon it happens. And as it happens, we see that in the very way it is happening, the hand of God, the good hand of God.

In other words, it seems to me that pretty normal Christian experience is that God answers prayers inside non-answers. That make sense? Here's the big non-answer. I didn't want this to happen this afternoon.

I ask you that it would not happen. It happened. And as it happens, I see your hand all over it for good and for grace.

How many times have you heard people talk like this? Maybe it's just because I'm a pastor that I've heard it so often. Pray for safety in the morning. Pray that some terrible accident won't happen.

Well, the accident happens in the afternoon. And as I hear them telling me this story, they say things like, if his head had been a millimeter to the right, he'd be dead. And God didn't let it happen.

The woman walking by on the sidewalk was a nurse. The ambulance came just like that. It was like three minutes.

In the hospital, they had an ample supply of his unusual blood type. Never before would they have such a supply. You hear that, right? What in the world? What in the world is that? Because if I didn't know the story of Joseph, I would be inclined to say, if God's sovereign hand is all over this, why didn't he just prevent it? Why the big non-answer? And then inside the non-answer, all these glorious answers.

Why didn't God prevent Joseph from being sold into Egypt? Why didn't he prevent the slander of Potiphar's wife? Why didn't he prevent the cot bearer from forgetting Joseph for two more years? Answer. This is the Bible's answer. Because God's way is to bring his people into peril.

For his wise purposes, all the while planning through the peril, their God-exalting rescue.

Video: <https://sermonindex2.b-cdn.net/adlb1EdPx8.mp4>

Source: <https://sermonindex.net/speakers/john-piper/clip-why-god-will-not-shield-you-from-every-sorrow/>

Grow in Your Walk with Christ

Listen and read messages that will stir your heart for Christ and point you to deeper repentance and devotion.

- 50,000+ Sermons from speakers past and present
- 3,900+ Classic Christian Books freely readable online
- 1,200+ Bible Translations and Commentaries
- Over 450k forum posts — Join our vibrant online Christian forum

www.sermonindex.net