

*TURNING YOUR LIFE AROUND –
GOD’S PART AND YOURS*

The Upside of Down - Series #5

Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed — not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence— continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.

Philippians 2:12-13

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1. God uses the Bible to change us.

The whole Bible was given to us by inspiration from God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives; it straightens us out and helps us do what is right. It is God's way of making us well prepared at every point...

2 Timothy 3:16-17

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2. God uses the Holy Spirit to change us.

Once the Spirit lives within you, He will bring to your whole being new strength and vitality.

Romans 8:11

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God knew what he was doing from the very beginning. He decided from the outset to shape the lives of those who love him along the same lines as the life of his Son. We see the original and intended shape of our lives in him [Christ].

Romans 8:29 (*The Message*)

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3. God uses circumstances to change us.

Trouble and distress have come upon me...yet you are near.

Psalm 119:143,151

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There is no easy way to go
through trouble, but there is a
right way – learning, trusting,
hoping, praying, growing.

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Trouble and distress have come
upon me...yet you are near.
Psalm 119:143,151

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1. I can choose what I think about.

Be careful how you think. Your life is shaped by your thoughts.

Proverbs 4:23 (Good News Bible)

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Your mind must be renewed by a spiritual revolution so that you can put on the 'new self' that has been created in God's way.

Ephesians 4:23-24

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If the foundations are destroyed,
what can the righteous do?

Psalm 11:3

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Blessed is the man...who meditates
on God's word.

Psalm 1:1,2

Let the word of God dwell in you
richly.

Colossians 3:16

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2. I can choose to depend on God's Spirit moment by moment.

Take care to live in Me and let Me live in you. For a branch can't produce fruit when severed from the vine. Nor can you be fruitful apart from me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever lives in me and I in him shall produce a large crop of fruit.

John 15:4-5

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3. I can choose my response to circumstances.

When all kinds of trials crowd into your lives don't resent them as intruders but welcome them as friends. Realize that they come to test your faith and produce in you the quality of endurance. But let the process go on until that endurance is fully developed and you become people of mature character, people of integrity, with no weak spots. James 1:2-4

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We can be full of joy here and now,
even in our trials and
troubles. These very things [the
trials and troubles] will give us
patient endurance; this in turn will
develop a mature character.

Romans 5:3-4

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Pray it up and play it down!

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- God gives us the resource of His Word; we are to fill our minds with it and think biblically
- God has the Holy Spirit; we are to choose to depend on Him.
- God takes us through certain circumstances. We choose our response.

We work out what God works in.

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