

It makes no sense because it's by faith

Story concerning two Christian men:

One man irresponsibly spent his earnings, gave nothing to God, and owed a huge debt. Fortunately for him, at his Job he received both a raise and a bonus. He also came into an unexpected inheritance. This covered his debts with money left over.

The other man was very wise with his finances, gave generously to the Lord and made sure he was debt free. Unfortunately, his car broke down and the cost to fix it was very expensive and due to cuts at his company he was laid off.

Question: What do these scenarios say about Faith?

The Bible is not oblivious to these hard to receive situations –

The poor lose because they are poor - Prov 13:23 A poor man's field may produce abundant food, but **injustice sweeps it away**.

The wicked's life seems great - Ps 73:12 This is what the wicked are like — always carefree, they increase in wealth.

The wicked and the righteous get what the other deserve - Eccl 8:14 There is something else meaningless that occurs on earth: **righteous men who get what the wicked deserve**, and **wicked men who get what the righteous deserve**. This too, I say, is meaningless.

We all must live by the lens of Faith to understand this -2 Cor 5:7 We live by faith, **not by sight**.

***" Not by sight", refers to both what I see and how I see it.**

Faith exemplified - Prov 3:5-7 - 5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart and **lean not on your own understanding**; 6 **in all your ways** acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight. 7 Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and shun evil.

By faith we should understand things will not work the way they seem they should- Eccl 9:11 I have seen something else under the sun: The race is not to the swift or the battle to the strong, nor does food come to the wise or wealth to the brilliant or favor to the learned; but **time and chance happen to them all**.

Faith allows us to accept our situation no matter how undesirable - 1 Cor 7:20-24 - 20 Each one should remain in the situation which he was in when God called him. 21 Were you a slave when you were called? **Don't let it trouble you** — although if you can gain your freedom, do so. 22 For he who was a slave when he was called by the Lord is the Lord's freedman; similarly, he who was a free man when he was called is Christ's slave. 23 You were bought at a price; do not become slaves of men. 24 Brothers, each man, **as responsible to God**, should remain in the situation God called him to.

How do we TRULY see everything through faith and not by sight?

We must check our purpose for serving God - Job 1:9-10 - 9 "Does Job fear God for nothing?" Satan replied. 10 "Have you not put a hedge around him and his household and everything he has? You have blessed the work of his hands, so that his flocks and herds are spread throughout the land.

The "sight people" tend to find comfort in the perceived or actual outcome, while the "faith person" finds comfort in God no matter the outcome.

i.e. If I need money by a certain time, if I'm a sight comforted person, I will be sure God will provide the money needed and will be devastated and/or confused if He does not. If I'm a faith comforted person I'm prepared for God to say yes or no because I find comfort in Him.

We must understand God is in complete control even when it doesn't SEEM like it - Rom 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.

Recognize He is God and God is sovereign - Rom 9:16-21 - 16 It does not, therefore, depend on man's desire or effort, but on GOD'S MERCY. 17 For the Scripture says to Pharaoh: "I raised you up for this very purpose, that I might display my power in you and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth." 18 Therefore God has mercy on whom he wants to have mercy, and he hardens whom he wants to harden. 19 One of you will say to me: "Then why does God still blame us? For who resists his will?" 20 But **who are you, O man, to talk back to God?** "Shall what is formed say to him who formed it, 'Why did you make me like this?'" 21 Does not the potter have the right to make out of the same lump of clay some pottery for noble purposes and some for common use?

Take everything to God the way God says to give it to Him - Phil 4:6-7 - 6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in **everything**, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. 7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Rejoicing in the good and the bad - Rom 5:1-4 - Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. 3 Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because **we know** that suffering produces perseverance; 4 perseverance, character; and character, hope.

Trust God! - John 14:1 "**Do not LET your hearts be troubled**. **Trust in God; trust also in me**."

Know no matter what happens, it will go well only for those that live fearing God - Eccl 8:12-13 - 12 Although a wicked man commits a hundred crimes and still lives a long time, **I know that it will go better with God-fearing men, who are reverent before God**. 13 Yet because the wicked do not fear God, **it will not go well with them**, and their days will not lengthen like a shadow.