

# THE WORK OF GOD IN SUFFERING

John 9 // January 24, 2021

## RUSHING TO JUDGMENT

When the disciples see a blind man, they assume that he either was in sin, or that his parents sinned. But Jesus says it is neither. It is easy for us to get stuck in false assumptions and rush to judgments. Though sin *does* have natural consequences, and God *does* sometimes bring discipline from “out of the blue” due to sin, we must not be quick to make a judgment that we can’t know surely.

There are times when we see glimpses of God’s way but not enough to allow us to make true conclusions about what he is doing and why. Yet we cannot resist jumping to conclusions anyway. Then, being insistent as well as inquisitive, we refuse to suspend judgment, and our wrong conclusions so misrepresent God that we end by doubting him. But if the Christians’ faith is to be itself, and let God be God at such times, it must suspend judgement and say, “Father, I do not understand you, but I trust you.”

Notice what this means: Christians do NOT say, “I don’t understand you AT ALL, but I trust you anyway.” Rather, we say, “I do not understand you IN THIS SITUATION, but I understand WHY I TRUST YOU ANYWAY. Therefore, I can trust that YOU understand, even though I don’t.”  
-Os Guinness

## THE THIRD WAY(S)

Though Jesus offers a “third option,” the reality is that when He says “the works of God,” that really opens up a whole subset of various things that the Lord could be purposing and working in us. Here are just a few:

- **Reliance:** 2 Corinthians 1.8, 9
- **Righteousness:** Hebrews 12.6, 10, 11
- **Strength:** 1 Peter 5.10 // Romans 5.3-5 // James 1.2-4
- **Reward:** Romans 8.18, 28 // James 1.12 // 2 Corinthians 4.17
- **Reminder:** Philippians 3.10
- **Helping Others:** 2 Corinthians 1.3, 4

## ONE THING I KNOW

**Whether he is a sinner I do not know.**

**One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.**

John 9.25

It is easy for us to get wrapped up in many things. We can be like the disciples, who have an “either/or” outlook on the events of life and come to quick judgments. Or we can be like the Pharisees, who stick with their viewpoint no matter what facts are presented. Or, we can step back, admit our limitations, our lack of total understanding and wisdom, and trust in God’s goodness, wisdom, and sovereignty because He has proven to us who He is.

1 Corinthians 2.2 // 1 Corinthians 15.1-3  
John 16.33 // Revelation 21.4 // Romans 8.35

## NOTES:

### This Week’s Scripture to Memorize:

**Isaiah 12:2**

Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid; for the Lord God is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation.

## ARE YOU NEW HERE?

### WELCOME TO LIFE MISSION!

We’d love for you to **fill out a Connection Card** so we can welcome you and answer any questions you may have. You can drop it in the offering basket during the service or take it to one of our teammates at the **Connection Booth** outside. Feel free to grab some coffee and snacks in the courtyard and hang out. We hope you’ll **join us next Sunday** and consider making us your church family.

### WHAT ABOUT THE KIDS?

Our childrens’ ministry, which we call **Kids on Mission**, has classes for **newborns - 5th grade**. We have a great team of volunteers who have all been screened with background checks for extra security. Each week your child will get to **worship** with their class, followed by an **age-appropriate lesson** that points them towards Jesus and helps root them in the Word of God.

Visit our website to read more about the vision of Kids on Mission and a walkthrough of our curriculum. If you have any questions, email **Amber Willis at [amber@lifemission.tv](mailto:amber@lifemission.tv)**

### JUNIOR HIGH & HIGH SCHOOL

Our **6th - 8th graders** begin each Sunday by **worshipping with the adults** and then head to their classroom with their teacher and classmates for the rest of service. Visit our website to read more about our junior high ministry and a walkthrough of our curriculum.

Our **9th-12th graders stay in the service** with the adults because we believe that it is crucial for them to not “graduate the faith” when they graduate high school.

For more information about our Junior High & High School ministries, email **Tyler Willis at [tyler@lifemission.tv](mailto:tyler@lifemission.tv)**.



# Contact Us

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## COMMUNITY GROUP HOMEWORK

Before group starts, who can share the **Memory Verse**?

Read **John 9**. What stands out in this passage, and what stuck out to you most from the sermon on Sunday?

Are you more like the disciples or more like the Pharisees in this story? Do you rush to a judgment like the disciples, or do you tend to be obstinate in your viewpoint on things and not back down? What does Jesus' response (and the man's response) do to help you trust more in God's wisdom rather than your own?

### Your Life Mission

There are many who are looking for hope for a better year, but there is a lot of brokenness all around us. Which relationships or get-togethers might be in your future that you would like prayer for, to help them hopefully see their need for the Prince of Peace in their lives?

End the evening in a time of prayer, praying through the theme of the night using the **P.R.A.Y.** model with your group. Pray for these people you have mentioned and for your heart and plan as you pursue them in love.

- **Preaching the Gospel to Yourself** (Matthew 6.9, 10)
  - Always begin your time of prayer focusing on God's goodness, who He is, and what He has done for us. Pray truths from this week's text.
- **Repent and Confess** (Matthew 6.12)
  - Real repentance begins where blame-shifting stops. Your circumstances don't need to change, your heart needs to change. Confess any particular sin that prevents you from walking out what God calls us to in the text, or any other particular sin you are wanting to fight. Ask Him to help you have strength to repent and run towards Him.
- **Ask for Provision** (Matthew 6.11-13)
  - Ask God for new perspective and for the things that you need. Once our hearts are fixed on Him, we can ask Him to help us with our needs. When your heart is begin filled with the Gospel first, your asking will be far more in line with God's desires and will. Ask Him to work in the relationships in your life that you are hoping to share God's love with.
- **Yield with Thanksgiving** (Matthew 6.10)
  - End your prayer by giving God thanks for His faithfulness and ask Him to help you trust and yield to His work and ways.



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### SUNDAYS AT 10AM

Life Mission Church Meets at Classical Academy High School  
207 E Pennsylvania Ave, Escondido 92025

## GET TO KNOW MORE ABOUT US ONLINE

LIFEMISSIONCHURCH.COM

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