

3 Directives - 2 Words - 1 Decision

So That - Even If - If You

Debbie Stuart

Lamentations 3: 20-26:

I will never forget this awful time, as I grieve over my loss.

Yet I still dare to hope when I remember this: (recall to my mind)

The faithful love of the Lord never ends! His mercies never cease.

Great is His faithfulness; His mercies begin afresh each morning.

I **say to myself**, "The Lord is my inheritance; therefore, I will hope in Him!"

The Lord is good to those who depend on Him, to those who search for Him. So, it is good to wait quietly for salvation from the Lord. (NLT)

SO THAT...

John 11:1-16

- There are two reasons given as to why the Lord delays and allows sorrow and suffering:
 - REASON #1: SO THAT the Son of God may _____. -vs. 4
 - REASON #2: SO THAT you may _____. -vs. 15
- John 11:14-15 (MSG) "Then Jesus became explicit: 'Lazarus died. And I am glad for your sakes that I wasn't there. You're about to be given new grounds for believing. Now let's go to him'."

EVEN IF...

Psalm 27

- "Though a mighty army surrounds me, my heart will know no fear.
 - **EVEN IF** they attack me, I remain confident". -vs. 3

Daniel 3:17-18 - "If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to deliver us from it, and He will deliver us...But **EVEN IF** He does not..."

Habakkuk 3:17-18 - (paraphrase)...**EVEN IF** the crops fail, the barn is empty, the fields are barren, nothing is produced and life seems empty...YET I will rejoice in the Lord!

IF YOU...

Proverbs 2:1-5

- My son, **IF YOU** receive my words, and treasure my commands within you so that you incline your ear to wisdom, and (if you) apply your heart to understanding; Yes, **IF YOU** cry out for discernment, and (if you) lift up your voice for understanding, **IF YOU** seek her as silver, and (if you) search for her as for hidden treasures; Then you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God.

Discussion Questions:

1. Please share with your group something that was meaningful to you in this message.
2. Question: Discuss together "things you tell yourself".
3. Application: What system can you implement to ensure you tell yourself the TRUTH?

Personal Application:

_____, (your name)

Do not demand explanations (_____, _____, _____) or
assume you know God's plan (_____, _____, _____) or
interrupt God's work with your argument (_____, _____, _____).

Even If - Mercy Me

They say sometimes you win some, sometimes you lose some.
And right now...right now I'm losing bad.
I've stood on this stage, night after night,
Reminding the broken it'll be alright.
But right now, Oh right now I just can't.
It's easy to sing, when there's nothing to bring me down.
But what will I say when I'm held to the flame, Like I am right now.

I know You're able and I know You can,
Save through the fire, with Your mighty hand.
But even if You don't, my hope is in You alone.

They say it only takes a little faith to move a mountain,
good thing...a little faith is all I have right now.
But God, when You choose to leave mountains unmovable
give me the strength to be able to sing - It is well with my soul.

I know the sorrow, I know the hurt would all go away if You'd just say the word.
But even if You don't my hope is in You alone. You've been faithful
You've been good all of my days.

Jesus, I will cling to You -Come what may
'Cause I know You're able, I know You can,
It is well with my soul!