

“I DO WHAT YOU DO NOT KNOW NOW; BUT YOU WILL UNDERSTAND LATER.”

(John 13:7, NIV)

When Jesus washed His disciples’ feet—a task typically reserved for the lowest servant—Peter was shocked and hesitant. Peter’s reaction reveals a common human struggle: difficulty accepting God’s ways when they don’t align with our expectations. He said, in effect, “No, Lord, you shall never wash my feet!” (John 13:8, NIV). But Jesus replied, “You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand” (John 13:7, NIV).

This moment teaches us a profound truth: God’s actions often transcend our immediate understanding. Many things God does in our lives don’t make sense at first. Some lessons and purposes He is working out in us will only be clear in hindsight, or “later,” as Jesus said.

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In Christian theology, this reflects the concept of divine providence—God’s sovereign and wise governance of the world and our lives (Romans 8:28, NIV). Even when circumstances seem painful or confusing, God is at work for our ultimate good.

You may face trials as a believer that seem unfair or perplexing. You might ask:

- Why me, when others who live in sin prosper?
- Why these hardships, this illness, or rejection because of my faith?
- Why does God allow these struggles even when I serve Him faithfully?

These are the same kinds of questions that Job wrestled with when confronted by suffering that seemed inexplicable (Job 1-2). His story models how to trust God despite unanswered questions.

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If you are going through such a time, know this: God is shaping your character and faith (James 1:2-4, NIV). Your present trials might be preparing a testimony that will encourage others who face similar struggles. Or they might be refining you for a greater purpose.

Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV) reminds us of God’s good intentions:

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

This verse assures us of God’s goodwill and benevolent plans for His children, even when the path seems difficult.

There is also the reality of eschatological hope—the confident expectation of God’s final restoration in the last days (Revelation 21:4, NIV). The “hope in the last days” means that ultimately, God will bring justice, healing, and eternal peace. When you look back from that vantage point, you will see the wisdom in the trials you endured.

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We are warned not to become bitter or complain endlessly when faced with difficulties (Philippians 2:14, NIV). Instead, we are called to persevere in faith, trusting God’s timing and purposes.

Paul reminds us in 1 Corinthians 13:12 (NIV):

“For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.”

This verse highlights the partial knowledge we have in this life compared to the perfect understanding we will have in eternity when we see God “face to face.” It encourages patience and faith when answers are not immediate.

Therefore, continue to fix your eyes on Jesus (Hebrews 12:2), love Him, and trust His faithfulness. He will never abandon you (Deuteronomy 31:6, NIV). Praise and honor belong to Him forever.

Amen.

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