

God At Work In A Broken World

January 18, 2026

God's Word works in the broken world. That isn't theory — but rather spiritual oxygen. God has been and still is faithful to His Word and to what He has promised. Let's begin in Isaiah 40.

Isaiah 40:6: The voice said, Cry. And he said, What shall I cry? All flesh is grass, and all the goodliness thereof is as the flower of the field: **7** The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: because the spirit of the LORD bloweth upon it: surely the people is grass. **8** The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever.

It says, “**All flesh is grass...**” This is the figure of speech *metaphor*, by which one thing is boldly said to be another (that is, it represents it). “Flesh,” which refers to people, come and go... just like grass comes and goes. That is a reality from God's Word we must recognize, consider, and deal with.

God **does not** sugar-coat reality. He lays it out plainly. **God's Word** us how to deal with things in this broken world. 1. **How deal with fear without fearmongering.** (In other words, we don't exaggerate the dangers.)

2. How to deal with sickness or opposition without pretending it isn't real or doesn't happen. Dealing with sickness without denying its reality means acknowledging the presence of illness or weakness, rather than ignoring or dismissing it. This approach involves facing the truth of physical and emotional struggles, while embracing believing, and hope. We do not diminish God's power or faithfulness.

3. How to deal with aging without despair; Dealing with aging without despair means recognizing that growing older is a natural part of life and not a cause for hopelessness. Instead of focusing on loss or decline, believers are encouraged to see each season of life as valuable and purposeful.

4. To deal with the noise of politics without being political. It is to avoid getting entangled in divisive debates or allowing political opinions to overshadow our believing. We anchor ourselves in the principles and promises of God's Word, seeking to be peacemakers and voices of wisdom rather than partisanship. Our ultimate allegiance is to God, not to any earthly system.

5. Finally, dealing with chaos without losing hope. This involves acknowledging the reality of turmoil and uncertainty in the world, yet choosing to trust in God's unchanging nature. When life feels unstable—physically, financially, or morally—we turn to God's Word as our steady foundation. Believers are called to hold onto hope, knowing that God's promises endure, and that His presence brings light even in the darkest times. In the midst of chaos, we find strength and encouragement by focusing on what God has said, rather than being overwhelmed by the world's instability.

The Word of God helps us stay anchored where we belong — not in what the world is doing, but in what God's Word says.

The world feels more unstable than ever today — physically, financially, morally, & politically. People feel worn down. Our bodies hurt. Our minds get tired. Families can be strained. But none of that means God's Word has lost its power. In fact, the brokenness we see is exactly the environment where the Word shines brightest in the lives of people who believe.

When I said God's Word helps us deal with sickness without pretending it isn't real or doesn't happen, I was pushing back against two big lies that hurt people today.

The first big lie says, **“If you have enough faith or believing, you won't be sick — and if you are sick, it's your fault.”**

That statement is cruel and unscriptural. There is no spiritual yardstick to measure believing. There are examples of believing in Scripture. There are records of believing during opposition. The Bible never teaches that believers are immune from persecution, disease, or illness. In fact,

2 Timothy 3:12: Yea, and all that will [desire to] live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.

Paul was constantly dealing with people who were very contrary to him and the movement of God's Word. By the time he arrived in the area of Galatia, a lot had happened to him. He had been beaten, even stoned, and dragged out of the city of Lystra and left for dead.

Galatians 4:13: Ye know how through infirmity of the flesh I preached the gospel unto you at the first.

Paul openly states that when he first preached to the Galatians, he was doing so while in the infirmity of the flesh. The Greek word *astheneia* means weakness or infirmity — whether physical or situational. He wasn't preaching from a position of comfort. He was preaching while battered, bruised, and worn down. Scars, lash marks, pain — it was visible. The next verse mentions what happened.

Verse 14: And my temptation which was in my flesh ye despised not, nor rejected; but received me as an angel of God, even as Christ Jesus.

The "my temptation" Paul refers to here was not sickness — it was persecution. Paul himself explains this in **Acts 20:19**, where he speaks of the "temptations" that came upon him through the lying in wait of certain Judeans. **Acts 13** and **14** record what happened when Paul first came to Galatia — he was opposed, beaten, and even stoned and left for dead (**Acts 14:19**).

Some Greek texts read "my temptation" and it refers to the trials and attacks Paul endured in his body while in the cities of Galatia, which included Derbe, Antioch of Syria, Lystra and Iconium. The Galatians did not reject him because of what had happened to him; instead, they received him with honor and respect.

Paul was emphasizing that what mattered was not the weakness of the flesh — it was the joyful proclamation of the gospel. Paul could have whined and sobbed about his condition, but he didn't. He was honest about it, yet he remained anchored in God and His Word.

2 Corinthians 2:4: For out of much affliction and anguish of heart I wrote unto you with many tears; not that ye should be grieved, but that ye might know the love which I have more abundantly unto you.

The word "affliction" is the Greek word *thlipsis* — physical or mental pressure, oppression, or distress. Think of Job. He had massive pressure. He lost everything, yet he remained with God.

2 Corinthians 1:4: Who comforteth us in all our tribulation [*thlipsis*], that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble [*thlipsis*], by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God.

God, who is the God of ALL comfort, is the one who comforts, and He comforted Paul. With a warm blanket? No, from the comfort of His Word. Paul was making this clear to the believers that this is how God works in times of great distress and pain, or in times of great persecution. Paul was making it clear to all the believers, both in Corinth, and in Galatia. He explains to the Corinthians...**2 Corinthians 11:24–28** *Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one - Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck... in weariness and painfulness... in hunger and thirst... in cold and nakedness... and on top of all that...the care of all the churches.*

Yet Paul stood. And withstood. And kept speaking deliverance. People might have looked at him and said, "If he really believed, he wouldn't look like that." That thinking is shallow and wrong. Paul was a man standing for God. Paul was not alone. Bear in mind that all sickness, all diseases,

all affliction and persecution comes from our Adversary, Satan. His MO is to steal, kill and destroy you and me. He attacks and makes it look like it's your fault, or somebody else's. But that simply is a deceptive device that he *"throws into the mix."*

Philippians 2:25: Yet I supposed it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus, my brother, and companion in labour, and fellowsoldier...

Philippians 2:27: For indeed he was sick nigh unto death: but God had mercy on him...

Paul did not blame him. He thanked God for His mercy. Faithful believers can get sick — but God is still faithful, and His Word still stands. Can we believe for health? Absolutely! But Satan is as a roaring lion, seeking to devour us. Paul had physical issues caused by the Judeans and false brethren. In some believers, their physical issues might have been maladies from birth, or some other event. Timothy too:

I Timothy 5:23: Drink no longer water, but use a little wine for thy stomach's sake and thine often infirmities [*astheneia*= *feebleness of health or sickness*].

Timothy apparently had **chronic physical problems** — "often infirmities." Paul didn't rebuke him. He didn't accuse him of lacking believing. He didn't condemn him for not getting delivered, but rather gave him practical instructions to help his body, and to feel better. Folks, people have physical or other issues. We have issues. Believers throughout history have had issues.

Paul had many afflictions and pressures. Epaphroditus was sick unto death. Timothy had chronic stomach problems. Our physical bodies are part of a fallen creation.

The second big lie that I mentioned earlier says: ***"Sickness is something we have to live with. This is just biology and decay — there is no help beyond medicine."*** That leaves people feeling extremely hopeless. Again, this is a lie from the devil! Medicine is a means, not necessarily the "end-all" solution. The human body was designed by God to heal itself. I'm sure that we have all heard and witnessed that, personally.

God's Word does not float above reality — it steps into it. It dives in where problems occur. It meets us when we are in pain, in weakness, in unanswered questions. Disease exists. Aging is real. But it also does not surrender to them as final authorities. God's Word gives: **Comfort** when the body hurts, **peace** when doctors don't have answers, **strength** when weakness is present and **hope** even when healing is delayed. So, we don't pretend sickness isn't real, but we also don't pretend it has the final word.

Hebrews 4:12: For the word of God *is* quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and *is* a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. For the word of God is living, and powerful...

God's Word still works in a broken world — not by denying reality, but by standing above it. We confess it to ourselves and to others. And that is a far stronger, more honest message than pretending believers never struggle in their bodies. We do.

So what have we seen? We began in **Isaiah** with God's own description of reality: **"All flesh is grass... but the word of our God shall stand for ever."** Flesh fades. Bodies weaken. People get tired. We get sick. We get hurt. We age. We live in a world that presses on us from every side. That part of Isaiah is not pessimism on God's part — it is just honesty. But Isaiah did not stop with grass. He ended with the Word which stands forever.

And everything we have looked at today confirms that same truth. Paul was battered, beaten, scarred, and persecuted — yet the Word kept working. Epaphroditus was sick unto death — yet God was merciful and faithful. Timothy had ongoing physical problems — yet the Word continued

to operate in his life. God never told these men to deny their pain. He never told them to pretend nothing was wrong. But He did give them something stronger than their circumstances... The Word of God.

For the word of God is living, and powerful... It's Not fading. Not outdated. Not weakened by the world, but it is Living. Powerful. Active. That is why God's Word still works in a broken world. Not because the world isn't broken — but because the Word is not.

So we don't anchor our believing in how we feel. We don't anchor negative issues in our minds, or anchor it in our bodies. We don't anchor it in the news or the culture. We anchor it in the Word that stands forever. And that Word still comforts. It still heals. It still strengthens. It still gives hope. Right here. Right now. In the middle of a broken world.

This WORD OF GOD is what we rely upon. This is where our focus should be. That way we, as believers, don't get dragged into the world's noise — we stay anchored in what **God's Word says and does**. We don't choose politics as a platform for discussing God's Word. You will be chasing your tail if you do this.

So, what now? **Now we look ahead of it all.** We focus on God's subject for us. Let's close in **I Peter**.

I Peter 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, **4** To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, **5** Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. **6** Wherein ye greatly rejoice [you're very glad], though now for a season [short time], if need be, ye are in heaviness [grieved] through manifold [many kinds] temptations: **7** That the trial [genuineness] of your faith [your believing], being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried [dokimazō = proven by test] with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing [apokalupsis = unveiling, revelation, manifestation] of Jesus Christ: **8** Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory: **9** Receiving the end of your faith [believing], even the salvation [deliverance] of your souls.

So, we live in hope, not hardship. We do not measure our lives by what we are going through right now, but by what God has promised us in His Word. We are secured by God. Our future inheritance cannot be touched by time or decay. It is anchored in something much stronger than what we face. And that is why, even in a broken world, we can rejoice — because our future is not fragile. It is held fast by the faithfulness of God and the unchanging power of His Word.

Isaiah 40:8 The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever.

God bless you.

Jack

"At The Still Waters"