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## **Disappointed?**

Have you ever faced a situation in your life that was so overwhelming, so spiritually dismantling, that you wondered how God could let such a thing happen to you? C. S. Lewis, one of the most famous Christian writers of the twentieth century, faced such an experience following the death of his beloved wife, Joy. In his book “A Grief Observed,” Lewis chronicled this time of difficulty which threw into doubt every certainty of faith he had so glibly mouthed before.

The book starts with Lewis stating how disappointed he was in God and what God had to offer during his dark times. However, ultimately Lewis reaches the conclusion that God had indeed been present and helpfully active in his darkest hour, though his expectations of what God *should* have been doing, caused him to miss what God was *actually* doing!

Have you ever been disappointed in God? Perhaps you, too, have had rigid and unreasonable expectations of God. It’s humbling to read the biblical writers who remind us of what we have such a hard time discerning in troubled times: that God stands ready to help, but by methods and means we might not have imagined.

For example, in the fortieth chapter of the book of Isaiah, the prophet suggests three possible ways God works in the lives of people of faith when they face difficulty: “They shall mount up with wings like eagles. They shall run and not be weary. They shall walk and not faint!”

Let’s explore these possibilities. First, God may give us the power to mount up with wings like eagles. For earthbound, wingless folks like us, this would amount to a miracle. And sometimes, that’s what God does offer. Sometimes, with God’s help, when trouble comes, we soar.

Yet sometimes, instead of a miracle, God may give us the strength to run and not be weary. This could be the inspiration and energy to do something to overcome the problem at hand.

But finally, there are times when the miracle does not happen, and there’s nowhere to run. Then, God may give us the strength and courage to walk and not faint. This is simply endurance. Small as it may seem, endurance becomes infinitely significant and appropriate, in fact, it is the best gift of all, when other options are gone.

So the next time you find yourself facing difficult times, don’t let your expectations of what God *should* do, cause you to miss what God is *actually* doing. In difficult times, we are not abandoned. Maybe a miracle will occur, maybe you’ll be energized and inspired, or maybe you’ll find a way to endure. One way or another, God is at hand, of this we can be sure. God is at work, for this we should be alert. God will offer help, for this we can be thankful.