

FATE VS. FAITH Part 2

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Last month I began Part 1 with this opening statement: “Well, you know, ‘everything’ happens for a reason.”— As I pointed out last month, this over-used statement is more of a belief in *fate* than it is about *faith* in a God who moves mountains in response to His Children’s prayers. Read last month’s article for more on that.

There’s another similar statement that can also create confusion, and that is, “God has everything under control.” While I believe this to be true, if taken to the wrong conclusion, one can end up, as with *fate*, and just accept the current realities to be unchangeable. He is in control, after all. The first casualty with this mindset is faith-filled prayer; since God is already controlling everything, why does He need me? Let us consider the view that God *directs* through prayer.

In June of 2015, our oldest son, Jeremy, at the age of 31, went in for knee surgery, which triggered heart failure. The only hope for him was a “mechanical heart” (LVAD) and to be put on the heart transplant list. “God has everything under control” did not mean that He caused our son’s heart to become enlarged to almost twice its size. What it *did* mean was that God was *directing* the lesser issue of a damaged knee to reveal the asymptomatic “ticking time bomb” in his chest. The Cardiologist told us that if this knee surgery had not exposed his deadly heart condition, then the next event would be, someday, he would fall over dead. What appeared to be a threat to our son’s life was actually the Father *directing* Jeremy’s physical realities (his knee issue) to *save* his life.

Romans 8:26 says that we do not know how to pray, and so “the Spirit intercedes for us with groanings that cannot be understood.” It does not say that we do not pray, but that when we pray, there are things we cannot know (i.e., about our son’s health); and the Holy Spirit takes our prayers and “fills in the blanks.” The Spirit had been “groaning” for our son as we prayed for him before all this happened. Two years later, a blood clot (and later an infection) in his LVAD threatened him again. The Doctor told us that if he got out of the hospital without having another open-heart surgery to replace the device, then “he will have won the lottery.” We did not throw up our hands and say, “God has everything under control” and go out to lunch. Instead, many people interceded for him, believing that God could win this “lottery” – and that is just what happened! The Doctor had no words.

When life gets out of control, our Heavenly Father bids us come to Him in faith, and He will work to *direct* those things in ways for our good and work to transform us further to be more like Christ (Rom. 8:28-29). In this *directing* work, God is in control. PTL!

My name is Tim White, and I have been the pastor of Tri-County Christian Center in Deer Park for the last 19 years. My wife Cindi and I have six grown children and “almost” eight grandchildren. Our desire is for a genuine revival and awakening across our land.