

A Hell Called, “A New Normal Not of My Making”

(How to adapt to my ever-changing experience)

SERIES: When You're Going Through Hell . . . ; (09 of 11)
by Dr. David Foster

A new normal is...

“While he was still speaking, yet another messenger came and said, ‘Your sons and daughters were feasting and drinking wine at the oldest brother’s house, when suddenly a mighty wind swept in from the desert and struck the four corners of the house. It collapsed on them and they are dead, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!’ At this, Job got up and tore his robe and shaved his head. Then he fell to the ground in worship and said: ‘Naked I came from my mother’s womb, and naked I will depart. The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away; may the name of the LORD be praised.’ In all this, **Job did not sin by charging God with wrongdoing.**” (Job 1:18-22)

When someone **dies**.

When someone **cheats**.

When someone **does something stupid**.

When something **ends**.

Defying Normal

I will **pay attention**.

“Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord’s will is.” (Eph 5:15-17)

I will **hold things loosely**.

I will **adapt to the new reality**.

“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the LORD. ‘As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.’” (Isaiah 55:7-9)

I will **allow for margin**.

“Do not wear yourself out to get rich; do not trust your own cleverness.” (Proverbs 23:4)

I will **focus forward**.

I will **be flexible**.

“If you are wise and understand God’s ways, prove it by living an honorable life, doing good works with the humility that comes from wisdom.” (James 3:12-14 NLT)

I will **be gracious**.

“Love forgets mistakes; nagging about them parts the best of friends.” (Prov 17:9)

I will **withhold judgment**.

“Therefore judge nothing before the appointed time; wait until the Lord comes. He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of the heart. At that time each will receive their praise from God.” (1 Corin 4:5 NIV)

I will **grow until I understand**.

“Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, **so that by it you may grow up in your salvation,**” (1 Pet 2:1)