

# A Christmas TV Special

## Christmas

A Perplexing, Troubling Christmas

- I. We trust in God's power, but question his character.

We say, “I believe God can, but I don’t believe he will.”

Isaiah 41:10 NLT

Don't be afraid, for I am with you.

Don't be discouraged, for I am  
your God.

I will strengthen you and help you.

I will hold you up with my  
victorious right hand.

If God is powerful enough to change our circumstances but doesn't, it must mean he is ordaining them for **reasons** we cannot see at the time.

II. We give our own wisdom and understanding more **credibility** than we ought to.

## Isaiah 55:8-9 ESV

<sup>8</sup> For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord.

<sup>9</sup> For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

If God always acted in ways that made sense to us, then he certainly wouldn't have sent his sinless Son to die in our place, offering us complete forgiveness and righteousness freely through Christ.



III. We view God's promises with a short-term view rather than an eternal one.

## Psalms 37:5-7 ESV

<sup>5</sup> Commit your way to the Lord, trust in him, and he will act.

<sup>6</sup> He will bring forth righteousness as the light, and your justice as the noonday.

<sup>7</sup> Be still before the Lord and wait  
patiently for him; fret not yourself  
over the one who prospers in his way,  
over the man who carries out evil  
devices!

This is the **journey** of faith: letting go of our own will and submitting ourselves to the **timeline**, direction, and will of the Lord instead.

IV. So why does God allow confusing and troubling circumstances in our lives?

Circumstances that perplex us often take us to new depths of faith. They **challenge** us to trust solely in the promises of God, rather than creating him into a god of our own design in order to make **sense** of what perplexes us.

One of the most beautiful and God-glorifying pictures of faith is when a believer has no earthly evidence to fall back on, but trusts firmly in the **Father**.