



The Myth: God is against us.

The Truth: God is for us.

Listen! Ever see a little boy torment a beetle with a stick?

- **Tension:** Ever feel like God is against you—thwarting everything you try to do and “piling on” the troubles to make you miserable?

The Myth: God is against us.

- So He uses life circumstances to get at us, oppose us and make us miserable.

The Truth: Even though hard things happen in this world...God is for us. Rom 8:31-39

- God is both good and incessantly purposeful—He is always up to something.

God is for us and hard things happen in our lives for many reasons:

- Reason A: We suffer the consequences of living in a sinful world. Luke 14:4
- Reason B: We suffer the consequences of our own sin and foolishness. Gal 6:7
- Reason C: We suffer the consequences of other’s sin and foolishness. 2 Sam 24
- Reason D: God is trying our faith—to prove it, purify it, and grow it. Jas 1:2-4
- Reason E: God is growing us toward Christlikeness. Rom 8:29
- Reason F: God is making us more useful for ministry to others. 2 Cor 1:3-5
- Reason G: God is “lighting a fire under us” to motivate initiative in us. Acts 8:1
- Reason H: God is doing things that we have no idea about. Job 1:6-12
- Reason I: God is building into us a huge longing for heaven. Phil 1:21-26

The Idea Again: Even though hard things happen in this world...God is for us.

Live Differently:

- **Worshipping**—approach God as a Father Who is “for” us.
- **Reaching**—approach unbelievers as friends who are “for” them.
- **Coaching**—approach fellow believers as family members who are “for” them.
- **Family**—approach family members as family members who are “for” them.

“Walking Papers”

Practical helps for walking the Christian walk each day this week.

The Myth: God is against us.

The Truth: Even though hard things happen in this world...God is for us.

- **Sunday:** Can you identify any hard things in your life that are the result of just living in a sinful world?
- **Monday:** Can you identify any hard things in your life that are the result of your own sin and foolishness?
- **Tuesday:** Can you identify any hard things in your life that are the result of someone else’s sin and foolishness?
- **Wednesday:** Can you identify any hard things in your life that are the result of God trying your faith?
- **Thursday:** Can you identify any hard things in your life that are the result of God growing you toward Christlikeness?
- **Friday:** Can you identify any hard things in your life that are the result of God making you more useful for a ministry of comfort?
- **Saturday:** Can you identify any hard things in your life that are the result of God motivating you to take some initiative?
- **Bonus thought (no extra charge of course):** Can you identify any hard things in your life that are the result of God doing something that you have no idea about?
- **Bonus, bonus thought:** Can you identify any hard things in your life that are the result of God building into you a huge longing for heaven?
- **Major Application:** What needs to change in your life given the truth that God is **solidly and permanently for you?** _____

Note for Connection Groups: The full study guide for small group and personal study is available at: www.cypressbible.org and then click on “Get Connected” and the link is on that page.