

# When There's No End in Sight

Pastor Art Hunt

January 16-17, 2016

**Take-Home Truth:** God works in the gap between life pain and delivery from that pain.

**In the gap, God may want to . . .**

. . . use our pain for good.

*As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. Genesis 50:20 (English Standard Version)*

*And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. Romans 8:28 (ESV)*

**In the gap, God may want to . . .**

. . . provide in a different way, according to our need.

*“Take care lest you forget the LORD your God . . . <sup>15</sup>who led you through the great and terrifying wilderness, with its fiery serpents and scorpions and thirsty ground where there was no water, who brought you water out of the flinty rock, <sup>16</sup>who fed you in the wilderness with manna that your fathers did not know, that he might humble you and test you, to do you good in the end. Deuteronomy 8:11, 15-16 (ESV)*

**Application Tip:** In your pain, look around and ask yourself: “How is God providing for me in this season of pain?” Embrace those provisions as God’s different way of saying “I love you.”

**In the gap, God may want to . . .**

**. . . move us to a greater awareness of our inner lives.**

*Then Job answered the LORD and said: <sup>2</sup>“I know that you can do all things, and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted. <sup>3</sup>. . . Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand, things too wonderful for me, which I did not know . . . <sup>6</sup>therefore I despise myself, and repent in dust and ashes.” Job 42:1-3, 6 (ESV)*

**Application Tip:** In your painful situation, spend some time looking inward and opening yourself to God. What new awareness about your inner life is God giving you? What invitation is God giving you in your pain? What will you do with the new awareness you are experiencing?

**In the gap, God may want to . . .**

**. . . broaden our definition of faith.**

*How much more do I need to say? It would take too long to recount the stories of the faith of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel, and all the prophets. <sup>33</sup>By faith these people overthrew kingdoms, ruled with justice, and received what God had promised them. They shut the mouths of lions, <sup>34</sup>quenched the flames of fire, and escaped death by the edge of the sword. Their weakness was turned to strength. They became strong in battle and put whole armies to flight. <sup>35</sup>Women received their loved ones back again from death. But others were tortured, refusing to turn from God in order to be set free. They placed their hope in a better life after the resurrection. <sup>36</sup>Some were jeered at, and their backs were cut open with whips. Others were chained in prisons. <sup>37</sup>Some died by stoning, some were sawed in half, and others were killed with the sword. Some went about wearing skins of sheep and goats, destitute and oppressed and mistreated. <sup>38</sup>They were too good for this world, wandering over deserts and mountains, hiding in caves and holes in the ground. <sup>39</sup>All these people earned a good reputation because of their faith . . . Hebrews 11:32-39a (New Living Translation)*