



## **WOW: Word Of the Week**

**Overwhelmed!**

**September 11, 2024**

Are you overwhelmed right now? Have you ever felt overwhelmed? You remember how it feels, right? Times comes into every life when trusting God is what is most needed—and most difficult. Most have experienced levels of stress or worry that causes one to wonder where God is, or why God is letting this happen. Today is the anniversary date of an overwhelming national event in the US. But for today, I want to think about personal application.

Like dust particles in a dust storm, worry and stress swirl about in life's strong winds and obscure the light. One cannot see. Admit it. Trust is easier when one can see at least a little. What happens to trust in darkness, despair, difficulties? When sight totally obscured? Not easy, but we keep on trusting. Or at least, we want to trust. How? We remember God's faithful deliverance. We remember when we relied on him and he rescued us. How can life's bumps so easily overwhelms trust?

I am reminded of the father of the possessed son (Mark 9). That father felt powerless. When he took his son to the disciples, they were also powerless. When he took his son to Jesus, Jesus did not immediately heal the son. Jesus said, "Everything is possible for one who believes." To which the father replied, "I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!"

Now some have said that faith fully matured casts out unfaith. I suggest that this story may say otherwise. Faith and unfaith too often dwell side by side in our lives. God can do anything, but will he? I confidently affirm, "God has this!" But do I need to back him up? Yes, God is my Plan A, but I want to have a Plan B just in case.

Some say this is human weakness. I counter that this is humanity on full display. Faith is not fully developed on the first day of the Christian walk. We continually grow in faith. Always. Even after decades of serving Jesus.

Overwhelmed! What will we do? Here is the faith commitment I make in the saner moments of life. I will face overwhelming circumstances with the faith that I have: I serve a God who is always bigger than the overwhelming moments. The time to decide that God is God is not after the crisis comes. The psalmist (Psalm 100) has the order right. God is God, God is good. Do not miss this: God is good because God is God. The essential foundation of faith is not that God is good! The essential foundation is that God is God! Always!

A final word. Overwhelming times will come. My experience, your experience, says this. The time to decide if God is God and if God is good is before the difficult days descend. When tragedy strikes, it is too late to wrestle with basic faith questions. I will act as a person with faith. I will do what I can, but when nothing is working, I will be still and remember that God is God, and that is always true—always.