

Gods Sees You and Hears You

From: Good News in Times of Trouble
From Day 9 of Overcoming the Overwhelming

Chapter 1: God Sees You and Hears You
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Sometimes it feels as if we are almost completely alone in the struggles we face. It seems that even those who are closest to us can't reach the lonely place where we are. Yet we can rest assured that even when others cannot see or understand what it is we are experiencing, God sees us and our pain, and He has deep compassion for us, even if our problems are our own doing.

In fact, one of His names is El Roi, The God who Sees Me. We learn of this name as we read of Hagar in the desert, alone and pregnant. Even though it was Sarah's idea that Hagar go into Abraham for the express purpose of conceiving a son, it was unacceptable that she despised Sarah when the union was fruitful. Sarah complained to Abraham about her, and he gave her permission to deal with her maid as she pleased. When Sarah treated Hagar harshly, probably after being fed up with her attitude, Hagar fled.

So, there she sat at a spring of water in the wilderness. It wasn't her fault that Sarah gave her to Abraham so that he could have a son, but it was her arrogance that created the rift between Sarah and her. It was also her fault that instead of changing her attitude toward Sarah, she ran away.

What was God's response? Did He leave her alone in the wilderness to suffer so she could see the error of her ways? No, He gently corrected her. He sent an angel to help her see where to go from there. The angel instructed her to go back and submit herself to Sarah. He even told her to name her son Ishmael, which means "God will hear". So blessed by this heavenly visitation was she, that we read, "Then she called the name of the Lord who spoke to her, You-Are-the-God-Who-Sees (El Roi); for she said, 'Have I also here seen Him who sees me?'" (Gen. 16:13).

Think of this, in just one story of one woman's *mistake*, two very important characteristics of God are revealed to us. He sees you, and He hears you. You are *not* alone—not ever.

So many times when we face hard times, the blame game begins. How did we get ourselves into this? "If I'd only—. I wish I hadn't. I shouldn't have. It's all my fault. I deserve this." Here is the good news. Even if our problems are our own doing or partially so, God still sees and hears us. He will help us. Consider, too, the superior relationship we have with God—that we are called his son or daughter. Would you leave your child in the wilderness *to die* to "teach him a lesson"? He will take care of us when we call on Him—even if the mess we are in was caused by us, even if we were acting irresponsibly. He will cause all things; yes, even our wrong decisions, to work together for our good.

"Father, I thank You that You see me right now—that I am not alone. You see me, and You hear me. You will bring me from this place of weakness into a position of strength."

