

“BUT GOD”
MARCH 15, 2017

INTRODUCTION: Small words can be very powerful, E.G. **“IF”** in **JOHN 15:7**. This reveals that conditions must be met in order for prayer to be effective. Another small but powerful word is **“BUT”**. **LUKE 22:31-32** What comes before the **“BUT”** is important; what comes after is what really matters. Jesus didn't deny Satan's intentions, but what He said after was more important. By connecting God to **“BUT,”** it becomes even more powerful. **ACTS 13:29-30 (ESV)** The transition is from gloom and despair, to life and hope.

“BUT GOD” when viewed in relation to life's challenges is what up is to down, life is to death, victory is to defeat, in is to out or success is to failure!

EPHESIANS 2:1-6 – We were all dead in sin, and under the influences of the world and flesh. By nature we were Satan's offspring and on a collision course with destruction. **“BUT GOD”** who is rich in mercy, who loves us with great love:

- Made us alive.
- Raised us up.
- Seated us with Christ.

I SAMUEL 23:14 (NLT) – Satan heard about David's anointing to be Israel's next king. He inspires Saul to kill him, **“BUT GOD”** intervened as He did for Chuck and me when abducted in Manila.

- We've all experienced challenges and situations where we just felt like giving up. We think nothing will ever change and defeat is inevitable. Jesus said storms will come to everyone.
- **“BUT GOD”** - This two word phrase communicates a powerful message to our enemy. It's the bottom line of our response to challenge. When everything shouts it's impossible faith shouts **“BUT GOD”**.

ROMANS 5:7-8

Some may die for a good man, no one would die for an/a – alcoholic, drug addict, child abuser, murderer, thief, extortioner, prostitute or someone lost and bound for hell, **“BUT GOD”** so loved the world!

1 CORINTHIANS 10:13

We all face temptation. Jesus faced temptation. When it seems as though there's no way out, remember **“BUT GOD”** is faithful to make a way of escape.

WHAT SIDE OF THE “BUT” ARE WE FOCUSING ON?

SATAN SAYS

You're not worthy.
No one can help you.
You won't make it.
It's incurable.
No one cares about you.
That mountain is insurmountable.
There is no way.
You're going to die.
Your life is meaningless
It's impossible.

“BUT” GOD SAYS

Now you are washed and sanctified.
I am your shield.
You are more than a conqueror.
By His stripes ye were healed.
I care for you and about you.
Speak to the mountain.
I am the way.
You will not die, but live...
I know the plan I have for you!
All things are possible.

CONCLUSION: **“BUT GOD”** can climb any mountain, calm a raging sea, cross any valley, deliver from a fiery furnace, lions den, cause the blind to see, lame to walk, deaf to hear and dumb to speak. At the midnight hour **“BUT GOD”** sings victory.