

responsibility for much of what happens in the world. What do you believe? Write your ideas here.

### Thursday, October 2

Read Joel 2:23-32. We read that God will pour out the Holy Spirit upon the people of Israel. God blesses us with all of creation and the very breath that sustains us. Yesterday, we considered whether or not God in control of everything. Today, please consider what our world would look like if God was in control of nothing. If God gives up control of everything, that doesn't mean God isn't in control of some things. The gift of the Holy Spirit is how God is present in the world today. Jesus came to this world in the flesh, but God's Spirit is with us always. Our response to that gift of the Spirit is what is holding our world together! We can truly give thanks for God's willingness to be with us in great times of celebration and during difficulties! While thanking God for the gift of his Spirit and presence in our lives, write your reflections here.

### Friday, October 3

Just as we can believe that God either controls everything or nothing, we can believe that everything is a miracle or nothing is a miracle. The true miracle of receiving blessings from God and having God by our sides in difficult times is the change that it can bring in each of us. Review this past week's Message Notes and Devotions. Have they made an impact on you? Have you gained some new insights? That would be wonderful and a mark of spiritual growth! Perhaps this message hasn't had an impact but have you gain wisdom in the past that is reflected in the message and these notes and devotions? Write a few thoughts about how your life is different because of God's presence in your life.

## Message Notes September 28, 2025

### *When Is It "A God Thing"?*\*

- I. We've all \_\_\_\_\_ the phrase, "It's a \_\_\_\_\_ thing."
  - A. We \_\_\_\_\_ for these God things; we've even called them God \_\_\_\_\_.
  - B. We're sure that God is at \_\_\_\_\_ in a \_\_\_\_\_ way in a \_\_\_\_\_ situation.
  - C. But what about when life doesn't go \_\_\_\_\_ and there is no apparent \_\_\_\_\_?
  - D. The prophet Joel of our text was tasked with responding to some catastrophes that had his country in \_\_\_\_\_.
    1. The land has been dry and barren. Life has been \_\_\_\_\_.
    2. Where is God when we \_\_\_\_\_?
- II. Pastors Timothy Merrell and Carl Wilton say that we're looking at the phrase, "It's a God Thing," all \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. They asked the question: "What if a God thing isn't just about what happens to us — but about what happens \_\_\_\_\_ when we walk by \_\_\_\_\_?"
  - B. If we only call good things "God things," does that mean God is \_\_\_\_\_ in the hard times? Not at all.
  - C. And here's the key: \_\_\_\_\_ faith and \_\_\_\_\_ faith is what makes it a God thing.
  - D. Joel's people knew great \_\_\_\_\_ and difficulty and hunger, but Joel \_\_\_\_\_ the people of Israel understand that even this can be a God thing.
- III. God is at work, not just in the \_\_\_\_\_ things, but in \_\_\_\_\_ things.
  - A. We call this \_\_\_\_\_.

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\*Joel 2:23-32

1. It is the belief that — as the word implies — God will \_\_\_\_\_.
  2. In the good time and times of challenge, God is \_\_\_\_\_ us.
- B. It is difficult to believe that God is in \_\_\_\_\_ things — good or bad; it is harder to believe this when life is \_\_\_\_\_. There are two ways to respond.
1. God is in control of \_\_\_\_\_.
  2. God is in control of \_\_\_\_\_.

- IV. Can I tell you I believe in \_\_\_\_\_? That's right God \_\_\_\_\_, life altering, healing and surprising \_\_\_\_\_-inspiring \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. The real miracle isn't just when circumstances change; it is when \_\_\_\_\_ change because of our faith.
- B. It really is a matter of facing the \_\_\_\_\_ in how we view the world.
1. This affects our \_\_\_\_\_ life.
  2. We stop crying out, "\_\_\_\_\_ is this happening to me?" and rather ask God, "\_\_\_\_\_? \_\_\_\_\_, good and gracious God, will you use this?"
- C. The next time we hear someone say, "It's a God thing," let's remember that it is not just when the \_\_\_\_\_ come.
1. Because God is over \_\_\_\_\_. And we can trust this God who is \_\_\_\_\_ present.
  2. In the hands of our sovereign Lord, \_\_\_\_\_ is a God thing!

## ***Daily Devotional Guide***

The following is a daily devotional and study guide meant to enhance your understanding of the message and grow as a Christian.

It is offered for your personal reflection or to share with others.

## **Monday, September 29**

What do you think of when you read or hear the words, "It's a God thing?" Do you think primarily of good things that have occurred? Do the word God Thing always imply blessing in your mind? Meditate on these questions and write your reflection here.

## **Tuesday, September 30**

Read Joel 1:1-9 and then read our scripture for this past Sunday, Joel 2:23-32. In chapter one, Joel cries out of the depths of his very soul as he tells of such devastations that people wear sack cloths and priests mourn. The land is laid waste and the people are hungry. In second chapter, the Lord has shown pity upon Israel and Joel instructs the people to rejoice and blow the trumpets! The grain floors will once again be full and hunger will be no more! Joel proclaims God's favor as he brings the message from God: "I will pour out my spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions." There is hope! There is reason to celebrate. The suffering is over. On this roller coaster of despair and joy, defeat and victorious living, is there a purpose for suffering? Just one question for today. Ponder these scriptures and this one question; while seeking God's wisdom, write your thoughts here.

## **Wednesday, October 1**

During the message, while reflecting on the commentary of Pastors Merrill and Wilton, Pastor Jack mentioned the choice we have in believing that God is in control of everything or God is in charge of nothing. It is truly challenge to understand. We want God to be in control and yet there is evidence that God is not in control of everything. That would mean that God is in control when a school shooting happens or an earthquake or wildfire devastates a region. God loves us so as to give us free will and apparently chooses not to be in control of everything. It wouldn't be love if God controlled our every action. We bear the