

Chapter 5  
The Fear Factor  
Ephesians 1:11

1. God's scope is tremendous. His perspective is vastly different from our own simply because God sees and knows all things! And why not? After all, He made all things!

\*What does John 1:3 tell us about creation?

\*What does Acts 17:25 say that God gives to us?

\*What are Paul's memorable words in Romans 11:36

\*What does Colossians 1:16 say that all things were created?

2. Not only did God *create* all things, Scripture says that God can *do* all things He wishes to do. How does Jesus put it in Matthew 19:26?

3. According to Scripture, with God "all things" are possible. But that's a wide-open field of unknown things for us, and many of us find that just a little frightening. But let's take a look at some more of the things that are a part of that "all."

1 Chronicles 29:14

Psalm 57:2

Isaiah 44:24

Luke 21:22

John 14:26

Hebrews 1:3

Hebrews 2:10

Revelation 4:11

4. The enormity of many of those statements is really mind-boggling. We cannot comprehend the vastness of God's power. But some of those "all things" verses get pretty personal. Some of the "all things" verses are downright encouraging!

\*According to Romans 8:32, what does Paul say God freely gives us?

\*What is the wonderful promise in Philippians 4:13?

\*What vital things does Peter say are ours in 2 Peter 1:3?

5. What is the “all things” promise of Romans 8:28?
  
6. God may promise that all things work together for good and that all things work together according to His purpose, but that doesn’t always feel like enough. We’d like a vote, or at least veto power in the process! What does Ephesians 1:11-12 tell us about how God works?
  
7. God may just choose to do the impossible in our lives, whether we’re looking for it or not! He’s working according to His own plans and purposes. But what does 1 Peter 4:11 tell *us* to do in all the things we say and do?
  
8. We’re not promised a peek at life from God’s perspective. Often, we don’t understand what in the world God is doing. We have to trust that God is working for good and for His own glory. What He *does* promise is hindsight!
  - \*What was Joseph’s unique perspective in Genesis 50:20?
  
  - \*What did Isaiah see clearly after all his suffering, according to Isaiah 38:17?
  
  - \*What words did Paul use to encourage the brethren in Philippians 1:12?
  
9. My brother-in-law, a former marine, is fond of saying, “What doesn’t kill you only makes you stronger.” Giving God our all is not and never will be an easy thing to do. But we must set aside our fears and trust that God’s good will be shinningly apparent in hindsight one day. Do you still have fears? Share them honestly with the Lord here.