

# Don't Be Surprised

Perhaps you have had an experience or two like a woman named Jill.

"I don't know why this is happening," Jill cried. "Just a month ago, I turned my life over to Christ. Now my car has died, my child has mononucleosis, and my promotion at work fell through."

Maybe you haven't had quite the circumstances that Jill enumerated, but you get the picture.

Dr. David Jeremiah, senior pastor of Shadow Mountain Community Church in El Cajon, California, addressed such feelings that may sweep over people in his book, *Turning Points*.

"While it seems logical that God would shield us from all pain, that isn't the way He worked in the Bible," Dr. Jeremiah wrote. "Study the great biblical heroes – Abraham, Joseph, Moses, David, Peter, Paul – and trace their trials and tribulations. Despite what certain false teachers say, the Christian life is not unbridled health and wealth. Jesus put it bluntly when He said, 'In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.'

"In other words," Dr. Jeremiah explained, "we shouldn't be surprised when, in seeking to do God's will, we find ourselves in painful, frightening, difficult or impossible situations. God hasn't promised us exemption *from* the trial but grace *in* the trial. He has promised never to leave us nor forsake us, and to work all things together for our good."



That's good advice, and important for those of us who work in health care to remember as we encounter challenges in both our personal and professional lives.

You can count on His promise: The Lord will see you through.

*Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial ... as though some strange thing happened to you; but rejoice ... be glad with exceeding joy (1 Peter 4:12-13).*

– Beecher Hunter