“But God Has the Final Word” Part one of “But God”
Acts 3:11-15. 11While the beggar held on to Peter and John, all the people were astonished and came running to them in the place called Solomon's Colonnade. 12When Peter saw this, he said to them: "Men of Israel, why does this surprise you? Why do you stare at us as if by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk? 13The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified his servant Jesus. You handed him over to be killed, and you disowned him before Pilate, though he had decided to let him go. 14You disowned the Holy and Righteous One and asked that a murderer be released to you. 15You killed the author of life, **but God** raised him from the dead. We are witnesses of this.

When God raised Jesus Christ from the dead, wow!!! That was a “but God” moment. I love to talk about “But God” moments. Perhaps you have a testimony of your But God moments. Perhaps you were on the verge of taking your own life because life was so hard, BUT GOD stepped in and you realized that you have a purpose for living. Perhaps you were down and out; discouraged and depressed. Someone did you wrong and you wondered “why?” BUT GOD stepped in and gave you peace! Perhaps you were physically sick and the doctors gave you the grim news. But then, you had a “BUT GOD” miracle that left the doctors wondering what happened. Perhaps you were lost, BUT GOD found you. Perhaps you were spiritually blind, BUT GOD gave you spiritual sight.

1) **The enemy has a plan, but God is always a step ahead.**
2 Kings 6:8-15. 8Now the king of Aram was at war with Israel. After conferring with his officers, he said, "I will set up my camp in such and such a place." 9The man of God sent word to the king of Israel: "Beware of passing that place, because the Arameans are going down there." 10So the king of Israel checked on the place indicated by the man of God. Time and again Elisha warned the king, so that he was on his guard in such places. 11This enraged the king of Aram. He summoned his officers and demanded of them, "Will you not tell me which of us is on the side of the king of Israel?" 12"None of us, my lord the king," said one of his officers, "but Elisha, the prophet who is in Israel, tells the king of Israel the very words you speak in your bedroom." 13"Go, find out where he is," the king ordered, "so I can send men and capture him." The report came back: "He is in Dothan." 14Then he sent horses and chariots and a strong force there. They went by night and surrounded the city. 15When the servant of the man of God got up and went out early the next morning, an army with horses and chariots had surrounded the city. "Oh, my lord, what shall we do?" the servant asked.

2) **You may be surrounded on every side, but God and His heavenly hosts are always greater.**
2 Kings 6:16  "Don't be afraid," the prophet answered. "Those who are with us are more than those who are with them."
Paula, from Dallas, TX, writes the following testimony:

As I sat in my lawyer’s office, listening to the final instructions for our court appearance, all I could do was look intently at my wedding ring. I had not taken it off in hopes that something would change. When we left the office, my husband and I went our different ways. I had thirty days to leave our home, and I had no idea where my two-year-old daughter and I would go or what I would do to support her.

I was a new believer and the Lord led me to a church where I met four very strong Christian women who prayed for me constantly. My “spiritual mothers” encouraged me to commit my future to God. I did.

I was left with little resources in hand, I didn’t have a job, so I took my wedding ring to a jeweler and several other possessions to a pawnshop. The wedding ring paid the rent and with the money I received from the other items, I purchased a ring. I was a simple cross, and I placed it on the empty finger on my left hand.

In my Bible reading, I came to the book of Ruth and read about God’s faithfulness. When Ruth purposed in her heart to serve the Lord, she didn’t realize that He had placed her into His kingdom and activated His plan for Ruth to be part of the line of the Messiah. This same Messiah showed me that when I decided to trust him, I became a modern-day Ruth. Since that time, He has been working in my life, orchestrating circumstances to draw me closer to Him. The Lord says that He is my husband and the father to my child. Within two weeks, the Lord provided a job and childcare for me.

Each time I look at that simple ring, it reminds me that He has taken my daughter and I into His household, just as He did with Ruth. I was headed on the road to despair, BUT GOD turned my life around. Jesus has redeemed us from an impossible situation. Things are not always easy, but in our covenant relationship, He has promised that we will not be abandoned nor forsaken.

3) **You may see the problem, but God sees the solution.**

2 Kings 6:17.  And Elisha prayed, "O LORD, open his eyes so he may see." Then the LORD opened the servant’s eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

What do you see? How is your vision?

Have you noticed that the world sees things totally differently than God sees?
The world sees things in the right now. God sees things in the eternal.
The world says that serving God is foolishness. God says that serving Him is wisdom.
The world sees Christians as “weak.” God sees Christians as “humble.”
The world sees the Bible as an ancient book. God sees the Bible as His inspired word.
The world sees religion. God sees a personal relationship.
The world sees Jesus as prophet, teacher and a good man. God sees Jesus as the Savior, His only Son. Life is much clearer when viewed from God’s perspective.

How is your vision?

4) **The enemy may try to do what he wants to do, but God has the final word!**

2 Kings 6:18-23.  As the enemy came down toward him, Elisha prayed to the LORD, "Strike these people with blindness." So he struck them with blindness, as Elisha had asked.
19 Elisha told them, "This is not the road and this is not the city. Follow me, and I will lead you to the man you are looking for." And he led them to Samaria.
20 After they entered the city, Elisha said, "LORD, open the eyes of these men so they can see." Then the LORD opened their eyes and they looked, and there they were, inside Samaria.
21 When the king of Israel saw them, he asked Elisha, "Shall I kill them, my father? Shall I kill them?"
22 "Do not kill them," he answered. "Would you kill men you have captured with your own sword or bow? Set food and water before them so that they may eat and drink and then go back to their master." 23 So he prepared a great feast for them, and after they had finished eating and drinking, he sent them away, and they returned to their master. So the bands from Aram stopped raiding Israel's territory.

God always has the final word! People will say what they want to say.
People will do what they want to do . . . But God has the final word!
God is still on the throne. God is still in control.

There are times when people come to me and tell me . . .
You need to do church in this particular way.
You need to do worship in this particular way.
You need to preach in this particular way.
Part of me was thinking, but God, you gave this church a different vision.
I asked myself – “Do I do what they want or do I do what God wants?”
Then I read from Galatians 1:10 where Paul says, “Am I trying to please man or trying to please God?”
And I was reminded that I need to be a God pleaser, not a man pleaser.

People will say what they want, BUT GOD has the final word.
It’s alright if people give you advice, BUT GOD has the final word!

Perhaps the enemy has put thoughts of discouragement in your heart and mind . . . BUT GOD has the final word – would you let God give you His Word?
Perhaps the enemy has done his best in trying to destroy your business, your home, your career, your finances, your health . . . BUT GOD has the final word.
You may be facing a mountain of a problem, BUT GOD can move it.
You may be facing a huge negative, BUT GOD can turn it around to a positive.
You may wonder about how you are gonna pay your bills, BUT GOD has it all planned out. Are you following HIS plans?
Your life may be filled with chaos and confusion, BUT GOD is here and He wants to bring you peace.

I Peter 1:23:25
23For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God. 24For, “All men are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall, 25but the word of the Lord stands forever.” And this is the word that was preached to you.