

May 3, 2024

## In God's Hands

[Isaiah 45: 5-9](#)

*<sup>8</sup>Shower, O heavens, from above, and let the skies rain down righteousness; let the earth open, that salvation may spring up,<sup>10</sup> and let it cause righteousness to sprout up also; I the LORD have created it.*

I returned to West Virginia a few years ago and now work as a third-generation hay farmer at our family farm. Farming requires more patience than planning and teaches me about following.

As spring arrives, I observe the snow melting, the fields and forests turning green, and I know it won't be long until hay season starts. I work hard to prepare the equipment and fields for the upcoming season planning for a good year. However, I'm reminded every day that my best-laid plans of when to cut, rake, or bale are small moments when the windows of opportunity arise.

Although I wish I could block out the calendar days in advance, I don't control when the hay will be ready. This, like everything else, is in God's hands.

We recently welcomed a golden retriever puppy into our home. Watching his curiosity and amazement as he sees and experiences new things around the farm has been a real pleasure.

While calling for him to come back inside this morning, I wondered if this is how God feels. We love our puppy, and when we call him, we want him to come running. Unfortunately, puppies, like people (including myself), get sidetracked. After several detours, when he returns, we shower him with love. We try to share what's best for him and give him opportunities to live happily. Sometimes, he has a different idea in mind.

When I read this passage, I'm reminded that God controls the beauty of every morning, the amazing sunsets and stars at night, and everything in between. He brings the sun and rain that makes the hay grow tall, the wind to dry it, and the sweet smell it provides when cut. Like most hay farmers,

I love the anticipation of the work and the reward for being ready for the window of opportunity to open. He alone controls the calendar, and I just need to be able to spring into action when the time is right. And like our puppy, when God calls on us to come, we need to follow without detours and allow Him to, as the hymn says, "remold and make us, like Thee divine."

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