



Kingdom Storytellers

Towards a justice-driven and enabling Community of God

Is Disability God's perfect plan?



Psalm 139: 13-14

For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb.

I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.

When we gaze upon a scan of a new life being formed in its mother's womb we can't help but be in awe at the miracle we are witnessing. "Ah..." we sigh, imaging a perfect little body being created and offer up hope-filled prayers for the life they will lead. Certainly the Psalmist agrees, seeing the miracle of our body's formation as evidence of the remarkable handiwork of God. I wonder, however, what our sigh would be upon discovering that the unborn child had a disability? Would we still see a perfect plan in the making? Would the later verses of this Psalm, praising God for "all the days ordained for [the child]...written in [God's] book before one of them came to be" still rise in us a prayer of hope and anticipation for all that new life will achieve?

Disability was God's perfect plan for my life. A controversial statement? Possibly for many I am sure. But one I was totally convinced about upon discovering that I would most likely be wearing a veil and having a very different relationship with God had I not be born with a disability. My Muslim parents were living in London when I was born. When my father died, my mother returned to Jordan with her other children. Because of my disability, I remained in London benefitting from a *Christian* upbringing and medical interventions that without doubt prolonged my life. Did God know that when I was being formed in my mother's womb? Of course he did!

Retaining our confidence that God is in control despite appearances is the key that unlocks the potential to a full and abundant life. I don't know what sort of a life I would have had if I had been taken to Jordan. I'm guessing that it would have been a difficult one. Not so much because I had a disability, but because the personality that emerged would not have withstood the limitations of a constrained upbringing. He knew that [a life destined for purpose](#) could not be left to chance.



REFLECT...

Consider the attributes/image of someone you most admire either eg a public figure, or someone we know personally or someone imagined. Then read Isaiah 53:2-5.



PRAY...

Thank God is not caught out. Praise him that he cares for us, and that he has a plan for our lives that is destined for purpose.



& STEP OUT!

Consider some of the life stories of people who have lived with disability that you either know personally or have heard of. Then read Isaiah 53:2-5 again.