



Berean Christian Fellowship

DEVOTIONAL 64.0

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Evil Came When I Expected Good

“When I expected good, then evil came; When I waited for light, then darkness came. I am seething within and cannot relax; days of affliction confront me” (Job 30:26-27).

In our lives, we all encounter affliction in the violence of events and illness and the actions and words of people. Job was afflicted by his physical ordeal, the pain of losing everything he had, and the words of his friends which wounded him. David also cried, *“I am afflicted and needy, and my heart is wounded within me”* (Psalm 109:22). Affliction can cause us to fear, not just during the affliction, but long afterwards. Past afflictions can cause our present behaviors in ways we may no even realize, because in our heart we fear future trauma (Greek. injury, wound), future death.

Trauma is caused by violence. Some people are more sensitive than others and can be injured by “simple” acts of violence (careless words, accusations, judgments, etc), especially when they are young, especially by people close to them. No matter what form of violence we fear for the future (embarrassment, judgment, betrayal, abuse, pain, or physical death), it is all sin. Sin is violence against God’s Law, devouring and destroying lives (Ezekiel 22:25-27). Our sin injures ourselves and others. All the works of sin bring forth death (Romans 6:23), both in those that sin in the flesh and those who are sinned against (wounded); *“therefore, since the children share in flesh and blood, [Jesus] Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and might free those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives”* (Hebrews 2:14-

15). Fear of injury and death makes us slaves in satan’s kingdom. He perpetuates his bondage in every generation through traumas, attacking our understanding of God’s Grace and God’s Love by trying to bring us evil when we expect good and confounding us with darkness when we expect the light, wounding us with unexpected “punishment” (like Job), making us fear future “judgment.” In this way, satan’s death can be woven into the Believer’s heart, making us doubt that *“we have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us. God is love, and the one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. By this, love is perfected with us, so that we may have confidence in the day of judgment; because as He is, so also are we in this world. There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love. We love, because He first loved us”* (1 John 4:16-19).

Satan would have us question God’s nature. He wants us to be confused about the Truth: we are the beloved Children of God, freed from our bondage to the fear of death, *“for all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, ‘Abba! Father!’ The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God”* (Romans 8:14-16). *“See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!”* (1 John 3:1a). You and I need to KNOW in our hearts that **“the Lord is for me; I will not fear; What can man do to me?”** (Psalm 118:6) Jesus says to you and to me, *“peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid”* (John 14:27). Even so, Amen!

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