

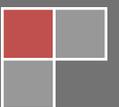
2016

Loving God, Why Troubled World

"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." (John 16:33)

Eternal Walk Ministry

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minman.frederick@erols.com
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Loving God – Why Troubled World?

If we have a loving God, then why is there so much hurt and pain in this world? Why are people killing people, natural catastrophes, disease, and economic failures?

And there was war in heaven, Michael and his angels waging war with the dragon. The dragon and his angels waged war, and they were not strong enough, and there was no longer a place found for them in heaven. And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him. (Revelation 12:7-9)

God could have destroyed Satan and his angels or cast them into the abyss – but he cast them to the earth where we live. Satan introduced sin to mankind causing the fall, which gave mankind the sinful nature and the world became subject to decay.

For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God. (Romans 8:20-21).

Scripture tells us it was God's plan to cast Satan and his angels to earth. Why did God place us in a world with Satan and his angels, which caused the fall of mankind? We see the evil results of the fall in the world today.

You will be hated by everyone because of me, but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved. (Matthew 10:22)

More and more people in this world are moving away from God and are against God's people. Satan is turning the whole world against God's

people. Satan and his demons brought sin into the world in an effort to pull us away from God.

Free Will

God created man in his image giving us the ability to reason and create, and make choices. We have the choice to walk with the Lord or by default walk with Satan. There are many scriptures indicating that man has free will. Below are three scriptures telling us we have freedom to make choices.

And if it is evil in your eyes to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.” (Joshua 24:14)

I take the heavens and the earth as witnesses against you today that I have put life and death before you, the blessing and the curse; and you must choose life so that you may live, you and your descendants, by loving Jehovah your God, by listening to his voice, and by sticking to him, for he is your life and by him you will endure a long time in the land that Jehovah swore to give to your forefathers, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.” (Deuteronomy 30:19, 20)

If only you would pay attention to my commandments! Then your peace would become just like a river And your righteousness like the waves of the sea. (Isaiah 48:18)

Joshua was telling his people to choose, worship false gods or worship the Lord. In Deuteronomy, God is telling us to choose life, and in Isaiah, God is telling us to choose obedience to his commands. If we had no ability to choose, God’s plan would have no meaning; creating people to know him, love him, and live with him forever in heaven. How can love exist without choice? God wants people to seek him because

of love. God's love is perfect and we love because he first loved us. (1 John 4:19)

I will give three reasons why God gave us freewill and put us in this sinful world.

1. Faith

Faith is how we demonstrate our love for God. If life was always perfect would there be any need for faith?

Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself. (Luke 10:27)

How do we love the Lord with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength?

In fact, this is love for God: to keep his commands. (John 5:3)

And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him (Hebrews 11:6)

We show our love for the Lord by trusting him to lead our life. Our love for the Lord is shown when we trust him, obey him, and call on him with praise and thankfulness while seeking his help and guidance, especially when life hurts the most, when life is most fearful and difficult. The more difficult life becomes the more our faith reveals our love to God.

Faith shows that we know God and his love for us and we show our love for God by obedience to his will. His love fills our heart and when we reflect that love to others, bringing Christ to others, our heart opens to receive more of God's love. This is the circle of love, the

more love we give the more we receive. This is forever increasing growth that makes us more Christ-like. We develop faith so strong that we trust the Lord to take us through life with victory over any trial that Satan can put against us. The more faith we have the more we show we love the Lord with all our, heart, soul, strength and mind.

Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world (1 John 4:4)

2. God Reveals Himself to Us

When hard times occur in life, Satan wants us to run from God and escape into the world seeking whatever calms our fears or hurt. It can be alcohol, drugs, gambling, sex, or even suicide. If we run to God he reveals himself and shows his power over Satan and his demons.

When we trust God to lead our life, and we live for Christ, he is with us through life guiding us on the narrow road to our eternal home. God protects our soul and he shows his power by filling our hearts with love, peace, and joy, even when life hurts.

God reveals himself to us by placing his Spirit in us. He sends the person of the Holy Spirit to live in the believer, those who accept Christ as their Savior and Lord. The Holy Spirit connects us to God.

“I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you. (John 14:16-17)

But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. (John 14:26)

For who knows a person's thoughts except their own spirit within them? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. (1 Corinthians 2:11)

We live in a sinful world with hurt and pain but God reveals himself to us through his Spirit enabling us to overcome the world. God shows his people that through him we can be victorious over anything this sinful world places in our path. God cast Satan and his demons to earth so he could show his love by redeeming us through Christ, and carrying us victoriously through life by his love and power in the Holy Spirit.

The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged. (Deuteronomy 31:8)

God is with us through the Holy Spirit, and he goes before us. What God does by going before us, we can only imagine. For example, keeping us safe and placing certain people in our path.

These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world. (John 16:33)

For everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. (1 John 5:4)

God does not always change the world around us, but he always enables his people to overcome the world. We serve the Lord and we

overcome the world with our hearts filled with love, peace, and joy from the Holy Spirit.

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. (Galatians 22:5-6)

The Holy Spirit is God and the fruit of the Holy Spirit is the character of God. The closer we are to God, the Holy Spirit, the more we know and experience the fruit of the Spirit. We are close to the Lord when we commune with God, meditate, pray, read the Word, thank and praise God, fellowship with other Godly people, and walk in obedience to his Word. This is living in the Spirit, being one with God through the Spirit.

God enables us to overcome Satan and his demons and be victorious in Christ. This reveals God's love, power, and forgiveness.

3. Eternal Minded

God created us with eternity in our hearts. How can we truly experience the presence of God and overcome the world without knowing we have eternal life? The more we are aware of our heavenly home, the more we overcome the world, the more we see this life as temporary, and the more we keep our priorities in order. Life is more meaningful and fulfilling when we are aware of our eternal home with the Father and the Son. What meaning is this life without eternal life?

For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all (2 Corinthians 4:17)

We endure this world by trusting and obeying the Lord; filled with love, peace, and joy, because we are aware of our eternal heavenly home. If we live like this world is our permanent home, how can we fully love

the Lord, or fully trust the Lord, or fully experience his love, peace, and joy?

If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. (1 Corinthians 15:19)

When we are eternally minded, knowing our home is in heaven where life is perfect, gives us strength to endure anything in life. Being eternally minded gives us more peace and security, helps us make Godly wise decisions, and enables us to see life from the bigger picture, from God's perspective.

In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? (John 14:2)

Summary

As you go through life, with its trials and tribulations, use it as an opportunity to show your love for God. Obey the Lord, praise and thank him, serve him by showing Christ to others, and seek his divine guidance and help. Know you are victorious in Christ.

I want to know Christ--yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, (Philippians 3:10)

Paul experienced suffering, bringing him closer to the Lord, and bringing the Lord closer to him. Paul's desire to be with the Lord was stronger than his suffering. He learned to be content in all situations because he experienced the power of God and he anxiously waited for his eternal home.

I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and

every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. (Philippians 4:12)

Listed below are the three reasons God cast Satan and his demons to earth, causing pain and hurt in the world.

1. Faith

God gave us freewill to show our love through faith. The more we depend on God, the more faith we have, the more love we have for God.

2. God reveals himself to us

God's Spirit lives in the believer, and through the Spirit we overcome the world, and we always have the peace that transcends understanding.

3. Eternal Life

Our hope is eternal life with God, knowing our reward is waiting for us. We know this worldly life is temporary.

God gives us everything we need to live victoriously in this sinful world, with a heart of love, peace, and joy. When life is difficult, run to God in prayer, in the Word, and in fellowship. You will overcome Satan and his demons through the power of God. Walk this life with the Lord and know you will be victorious.