



Pathways of Life - Does God Allow # 4

Hello everyone. Welcome to “Notes from the Presence.” We have talked about good and evil, their sources, and spiritual legal matters. Today we are going to talk about pathways of life.

It would be foolish for me to try to put together a formula that answers the questions we talked about in our last article, questions such as:

Why, since God is a God of love, and I have chosen Him as my Lord, did He allow evil to come upon me? Why didn't He protect me and intervene on my behalf? Why didn't this love manifest in a practical way and rescue me?

Instead, I would like to define some absolutes, list a few possibilities, and set up a mystery file.

First, a few absolutes. I said this two articles ago but it is worth stating again - God is good. It is not a weird kind of "we'll never understand until heaven" good. He is good in the most delightful sense of the word. Every good and perfect gift and life situation comes from Him. If it is bad, God had nothing to do with it's origin. God does not bring bad things on good people. However, He is so good at redeeming bad situations, that often we make the mistake of thinking He caused it in the first place. The fact is, He allowed us a choice 6000 years ago and as a human race we chose the curse and an alignment with an evil spirit. We allowed the curse into our world.

Here is a second absolute. Disaster and harm is the result of the curse coupled with a vast army of evil spirits and angels. These hellish entities are organized, determined, and they detest humankind. We remind them of what they might have become had they not rebelled against God. I cannot overstate this fact - the devil hates you. He is studying you even at this moment, looking for a crack, anything, to exploit your mind, heart,

body, life, family, and finances. He then propagates evil through his hellish hordes - such as demons of infirmity who cause sickness.

Here is a third absolute - talking specifically about sickness. God does not make us sick to teach us things and He does not use sickness or disaster as punishment. Jesus went about destroying the works of the devil and revealing the will of the Father. There are quite a few instances where Jesus healed "all" who were ill (Matthew 8:16). Here is another verse:

Acts 10:38 You know of Jesus of Nazareth, how God anointed Him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and how He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.

Here we see that sickness is an oppression of the devil. Jesus went about doing good and healing all because it is God's nature. If sickness was God's will or punishment, Jesus would not have healed "all." In fact, when we get sick, the first thing we do is to try to get rid of the sickness. We go to the doctor, get medication, and do whatever we can to get well again. If we are of the opinion that God is the possible cause of sickness, we need to reconsider going to the doctor to try to get better because we will be working against the discipline and will of God ... just sayin.'

Now a fourth absolute. God is not a respecter of persons. In other words, He is not random. There is eternal purpose in everything He does. He does not treat His children with randomness. He does not, for instance, heal one and decide to not heal the next one. Any father who would do something like this on our earth would be charged with child abuse. God is not a child abusing Father.

Now let's discuss a few possibilities - things that open up doors for evil, or allow it access to our lives. First of all, evil does not necessarily need a reason to try to attack us. The bible is very specific ... in this world we will have persecution and ordeals of all kinds. However, there are some things that do open doors. Here is an incomplete list - unforgiveness, carelessness, not taking care of our bodies, not listening to warning signals and signs, not heeding the still small voice of the Holy Spirit, generational curses, bad decisions, reaping things we have sowed in foolishness, guilt and condemnation, trying to control that which we should be putting in God's hands, blatant sin or lifestyles of sin, stress, not honoring others, and lack of sleep. The devil looks for these situations in our lives and exploits them if he can.

There is one other factor that is huge in "lowering our defences" so to speak. This will be controversial to some and downright offensive to others but here it goes. The bible describes our shield as a "shield of faith." Faith is a shield that quenches fiery darts. The

opposite to faith is actually fear in the bible - "Oh ye of little faith, why did you fear?" When we fear, we lower our shield of faith. Fear, worry, and anxiety is the number one door opener to disaster, the curse, sickness, and evil. Even Job said, "that which I feared most has come upon me." In my life, when I feel a sickness coming upon me, this is what I do: immediately - take communion, and second - put a stop to fear. I do not say "oh no, I am afraid that I am getting sick." I have noticed that at the first sign of anything, we as humans have a knee-jerk reaction to fear. I have discovered that a key to warding off many situations is refusing to fear - but don't make it into a formula. Perfected love casts out fear. This kind of love can only be found in intimacy with Jesus and our Heavenly Father. There is no shortcut to staying in the presence of God.

Now for the unexplainable. There are things that happen for which there seems no reason or purpose. We pray, we don't get breakthrough, and the worst-case scenario happens. In these instances, we need to remember a few things - God did not cause it, He will redeem it if we allow Him to, and yes, we will understand it someday. Personally, I have a file called a mystery file. These kind of things go into my mystery file, a file that I choose to lay before my Father in heaven with trust. I refuse to hold Him responsible for these disasters, He is good. I lay the blame where it belongs, with the thief who comes to steal, kill, and destroy. I will not hold resentment towards the only One who can redeem the situation and make all things work together for GOOD (His nature) to those who love Him and are called according to purpose (that's me).

To close, I would like to share a couple of verses with you:

Matthew 7:14 For *the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it.*

Psalm 16:11 *You will make known to me the path of life; in Your presence is fullness of joy: in Your right hand there are pleasures forever.*

There is a way to live above the curse and it is found in the secret place - a place in which the pathways of life are found. We will talk more about this narrow pathway in our next article.

Thanks for reading today. Jesus is real and He is the way, the truth, and the life.