

**Through God's eyes.– Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> June, 2015**

***“For My thoughts are not your thoughts,  
Nor are your ways My ways,” declares the Lord.  
<sup>9</sup> “For as the heavens are higher than the earth,  
So are My ways higher than your ways  
And My thoughts than your thoughts.” Isaiah 55:8-9***

Beloved in The Lord,

When things in life don't go according to plan, how do you react? Do you complain and murmur against God, and say something like; *“Why is this happening? I thought You loved me? How can this be?”*

Just recently I came across this very interesting email, which was entitled a “Conversation with God”. It is a man talking to God, complaining about his day. Let me share it with you.

Me (in a tizzy) : God, can I ask you something?

GOD: Sure.

Me: Promise you won't get mad?

GOD: I promise.

Me (frustrated): Why did you let so much stuff happen to me today?

GOD: What do you mean?

Me: Well I woke up late.

GOD: Yes

Me: My car took forever to start.

GOD: Okay.

Me (growling): At lunch, they made my sandwich wrong, and I had to wait.

GOD: Hmmmm.

Me: On the way home, my phone went dead, just as I picked up a call

GOD: All right

Me (loudly): And to top it all off, when I got home, I just wanted to soak my feet in my foot massager and relax, but it wouldn't work. Nothing went right today! Why did you do that?

GOD: Well let me see..... the death angel was at your bed this morning and I had to send one of the other angels to battle him for your life. I let you sleep through that.

Me (humbled): Oh.

GOD: I didn't let your car start because there was a drunk driver on your route that might have hit you if you were on the road.

Me (ashamed): .....

GOD: The first person who made your sandwich today was sick and I didn't want you to catch what they have, I knew you couldn't afford to miss work.

Me (embarrassed): Oh.

GOD: Your phone went dead because the person that was calling was going to give a false witness about what you said on that call, I didn't even let you talk to them so you would be covered

Me (softly): I see God.

GOD: Oh and that foot massager, it had a short that was going to throw out all of the power in your house tonight. I didn't think you wanted to be in the dark.

Me: I'm sorry God.

GOD: Don't be sorry, just learn to trust me . . . in all things, the good and the bad.

Me: I WILL trust you God.

GOD: And don't doubt that my plan for your day is always better than your plan.

Me: I won't God. And let me just tell you God, thank you for everything today.

GOD: You're welcome child. It was just another day being your God and I love looking after my children.

I must admit that it is easier to see God's hand and be thankful for His work when we are given a clear and obvious blessing than it is when some frustration crops up in our lives, but as He explained to this man, He is always there. He promised us He would never leave us or forsake us. When things we consider bad happen to us, we need to seek His wisdom and try to learn what good He has for us in those bad things.

Are you able to be thankful for the lumps as well as the smooth rides? For the warts as well as the beauty?

I shared this rather lengthy piece with you, because I think it so powerfully illustrates the truth that is contained in our text today, namely that God's ways and thoughts are far higher and far better than ours. God does know what He is doing. Nothing ever surprises Him and He is on top of all things.

Psalms 121 spells this out:

***I will lift up my eyes to the mountains;***

***From where shall my help come?***

***<sup>2</sup> My help comes from the Lord,***

***Who made heaven and earth.***

***<sup>3</sup> He will not allow your foot to slip;***

***He who keeps you will not slumber.***

***<sup>4</sup> Behold, He who keeps Israel***

***Will neither slumber nor sleep.***

***<sup>5</sup> The Lord is your keeper;***

***The Lord is your shade on your right hand.***

***<sup>6</sup> The sun will not smite you by day,***

***Nor the moon by night.***

***<sup>7</sup> The Lord will protect you from all evil;***

***He will keep your soul.***

***<sup>8</sup> The Lord will guard your going out and your coming in***

***From this time forth and forever.***

This is a Psalm that we should read often and one that we should meditate upon. These are words that we should inscribe upon our heart. We need to be fully convinced that God is never asleep. He never dozes off or loses focus. He is watching over us day and night! He is our refuge, our defense, our help. Absolutely nothing happens outside of His knowledge and

ultimately His will. If He allows something negative in our life, it is because He has a good reason.

Paul writes in his letter to the Romans:

***“And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.” (Romans 8:28)***

Paul writes we know, that God causes **ALL THINGS** work together for good to those who love Him.

This raises two issues.

Firstly, if you do not love God, if you are not His child through faith in Jesus Christ, then you do not have this assurance, because this promise is for those who are in Christ Jesus. If you do not love God, then He is under no obligation to cause all things to work for your good. Secondly, when Paul writes we know, that immediately raises the question: Do we know? Are we truly convinced as Paul was?

Are you like the person in the conversation with which we began, who was upset with God, and questioned why? Do you say to God “Why, oh why are you doing thus and so? Why do You allow this to happen?” Or do you react to adverse circumstances saying: “Lord, I don’t understand why, but I am trusting You that You have a reason for this, and I believe that You are working it out for my good and Your glory. I thank you Father.”

If you believe Romans 8:28 then this is the correct response.

This type of response always brings blessing, and yes, even peace and joy in difficulties, because when you respond correctly, you raise your sights off of your problems and fix your gaze upon Jesus. When our sights are firmly fixed on Jesus, then all is well, all will be well, no matter what.

In order for us to have this faith and conviction, then we must resolve once and for all the question of God’s absolute sovereignty in all things. God is absolutely sovereign, He always acts in Truth and His motivation is love.

If we can settle this in our hearts and minds then we have laid a firm foundation for our life. To use Jesus illustration we have built our house upon the rock. The house built on the rock of God’s Word, will stand no matter how violent the storm may be.

Just recently we considered Paul’s words to the Romans:

***“What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us? <sup>32</sup> He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things?” (Romans 8:31-32)***

God did not spare His own Son, but gave Him up for us, nailed Him to the cross, to save us. There has never been and never will be anything more precious than the blood of Jesus. God shed His blood for us. How then can we harbour doubts and fears and question God’s motives and His plans and will for us?

He loves us tremendously. We were brought with a price that is priceless. We are precious in God’s eyes.

Therein my friend, lies our security. We must not entertain doubts, but in all things we must trust Him and live in obedience to Him.

Paul writes:

***“in everything give thanks; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.” (1.Thess.5:18)***

In everything give thanks. That includes those things you do not understand.

Amen

Pastor Colvin MacPherson Latvian Evangelical Lutheran Church in Sydney.

All Bible quotations taken from New American Standard Bible.