

Casting Our Cares Upon Him

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If there is one thing that can cause a person to be bitter at God, it is the death of an infant. And, most of us are at a loss when it comes to finding the words to console a parent in grief, mainly because we don't understand why these things happen.

Yet all of us seem to be assured of this one thing (I know I am), that all little children go to heaven when they die. And, as sure as I am that all little children go to heaven, I am equally confident that it was never the perfect will of God that any of these little lives be surrendered in the beginning of their lives. But, as long as human beings are fallible, then we are going to make mistakes and fall short of the perfect will of God and have to settle for the good or the acceptable. And, please believe me when I say, when a child does go home, it may not be the perfect will of God that he go, but it certainly falls under the category of good and acceptable.

The problem most of us have is the inability to see or understand that God has a plan for our lives that extends as much past our natural realm of existence as the universe does past the earth.

When we lose a child, sometimes it's very hard to see that it simply changes residence from one planet to another, from earth to heaven, and goes on to fulfill the rest of God's perfect plan for its life. Yet, because of everything about us that is human, we become so blinded by hurt and pain over the loss of a child or loved one that our emotions will not let us come to terms with death and realize that in no way, shape, or form is there anything final about the death of a child or a believer.

Of course, it is not God's perfect will for a child to go on to be with the Lord before he fulfills the plan of God for his or her life any more than it is God's perfect will for anyone to die of disease at any stage of their life and go home prematurely before completing their call. Yet it happens every day as many, many thousands of people go home to be with Jesus ahead of schedule as children, as teenagers, and as adults in every facet of their lives and in every stage of their calling.

So, it is inevitable, if you and I live long enough, that we are going to be faced with people we really love moving to heaven and, being as human as we are, there will be those times when we must deal with the deep-seated emotions that come when we are brought face-to-face with death.

When those times come, especially in the case of a child, what is most important is what we let the crisis do to us and our overall outlook towards God and faith. Because, when any person young or old enters heaven, the last thing that they want is for us to harbor any kind of bitterness or resentment towards God because of the circumstances surrounding their lives at the time of their death.

The more I look into the lives of believers, both past and present, searching for the things that have

caused them to be overcomers, the more I find that their understanding of the plan of God and redemption goes much, much deeper than the temporary goals and aspirations of this lifetime only.

It seems as though one of the missing ingredients that adds substance to a person's life, the kind of substance that enables them to reach down on the inside and pull out whatever is necessary to keep on going and winning, IS THE SPIRITUAL STRENGTH that comes from knowing that, HOW WE SPEND OUR LIVES HERE ON EARTH DIRECTLY SHAPES AND ESTABLISHES OUR REWARD IN HEAVEN FOREVER AND EVER.

If there is one area the devil does not want us to be renewed in, it is the spiritual principles that govern the operation of God's power in our lives while living and operating here, this side of heaven.

When we really begin to experience the greatest influx of God's power in our lives to carry on the daily affairs of this life, to enable us to pray and receive answers, to stand through hard times and crisis with the utmost of confidence to overcome them, is when we make up our minds to esteem the rewards of heaven a far greater prize than the temporary short-sighted goals of this life.

This is one of the devil's most powerful deceptions. He wants to keep our whole life caught up in the drama of success and failure, he wants to keep us blinded to the fact that the way we succeed here is by operating in the faith and principles that bind our life here, to the reward God has promised us there.

The devil wants everything to revolve around the short-sighted goals that rise and fall between birth and the grave so that he can keep our emotions strung out ... our whole life rising and falling with every crisis.

There is nothing he likes better than to let us strive and strive for a short-sighted goal, something that perishes with everything else that is temporary.

And, because our labor and vision extends no further than the grave, our whole life is rolled up into one basket, take it away and there is nothing left. So, when the devil jerks the rug out from under us, he creates crisis and control. This is called persecution and afflictions entering in (Mark 4:15-17) and causes people to become offended at God and the Word: *"And these are they likewise which are sown on stony ground; who, when they have heard the word, immediately receive it with gladness; And have no root in themselves, and so endure but for a time: afterward, when affliction or persecution ariseth for the word's sake, immediately they are offended."*

In order to be fully equipped in this life and come to a place where we are free from torment and fear, we must understand that, no matter what the devil is putting us through or the kinds of circumstances we find ourselves in, the glories of heaven far outweigh any hardships that have been imposed upon us or the sacrifices we have been asked to make.

It seems as though the believers who have overcome the flesh enough just to get a glimpse of these things are well on their way to closing one of the most effective doors that Satan uses to gain access to the more vulnerable areas of our lives and that is a person's susceptibility to the cares of this life

because it is the cares of this life that Satan uses to devour us with.

This is why I Peter 5:6-9 says: "*Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you. Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: WHOM RESIST STEDFAST IN THE FAITH ...*"

Notice that the basis for casting our care upon Him in the seventh verse is because "HE CARETH FOR YOU". In fact, He cares for you probably more than you can know or even understand at this point. And you can rest assured, if there was a better way to resist the devil than by not taking the care, don't you think God would have revealed it to us?

The way to really resist the devil is by not taking the care! The way to really get God involved in our problem is by giving it to Him.

In the sixth verse, Peter said that the casting of our care over onto Him was the act of a humble man and, if this is the case, then the act of a proud self-exalted man would be to hang onto the care. The part I could not understand was why it would be considered the act of a proud man to hang onto worry and care or why in the eyes of God a man who is full of care would be considered PROUD?

As long as we are in this world, pressures, torments, and fears are going to continually be made available to us in every form imaginable to mankind. Being as fallible as we are, that is so capable of making mistakes, then there will be those times when we find ourselves face to face with everything from our whole world threatening to fall apart from the loss of a loved one, to bankruptcy and divorce. When God designed the spiritual law that governed the casting of our care over onto Him, it was not designed because we are so perfect, but BECAUSE WE ARE SO IMPERFECT! Just think ... a man could be so full of pride as to believe that he could actually carry his load better than Jesus.

I know at times things can be tough but, when we yield to God and fulfill the qualification of a humble man by casting the whole of our care over onto Him, then we have released God to lavish His love and care upon us. As far as the devil is concerned, we have slammed the door in his face for there is nothing the devil likes more than to be able to control our lives by seducing us into an exaggerated sense of self-worth by loading us down with so much worry, torment, fear. Then self-pity enters in and, when self-pity enters in, although we may not be willing to admit to it, it is another form of anger towards God.

The devil is so subtle he will get us to keep taking more and more of the care by continuing to say things like: "What have you ever done to deserve this? Everyone is watching you, this is humiliating, YOU DESERVE SO MUCH BETTER THAN THIS...." And, instead of humbling ourselves, we exalt ourselves and become offended at God.

So even though many things may happen in our lives because of our shortcomings and even things that are hard to understand like the death of loved ones when we know that it was not God's time nor His perfect will for them to go, we must understand, the provisions God has made for us are not just determined on whether or not we win every test or trial that comes our way.

This plan for us does not just include our walk with Him through this life alone ... but forever.

The part that is so hard for us to understand is that this war between God and Satan has been going on for quite some time and has involved humanity for the last six thousand years. Because we are so limited in our thinking, the concept that we have of this war is not the one which has been raging for six thousand years but rather involves something that can be fitted into our own little world and into our own little lifetime.

When in reality His plan for you and me not only involves but utilizes the strategic position of two planets - one is HEAVEN and ONE is EARTH and spans the lifetimes of people for six thousand years. Right now you and I belong to the colony of believers who inhabit this tiny outpost called EARTH, which is on the cutting edge of where the forces of hell meet up with the Kingdom of God.

Like any other war, as long as you and I are fallible, there are going to be casualties. But, because of our limited outlook on the overall scheme of things, we view the loss of a loved one as something that is almost final.

But much in the same way that our soldiers who are wounded on the frontlines of war are brought back to the security of a hospital for their recovery, God views the premature death of a saint, not as a casualty, but as nothing more than a wound and takes them out of the war zone by removing them from the frontlines of earth, to the beautiful city of the Lamb and those wonderful hills of paradise.

We don't always understand the reasons surrounding the death of a loved one, especially an infant. Every situation or circumstance in life is the result of many, many decisions made by many, many people, past and present. For example, if we weren't raised in an environment where our parents walked with God then it will have an effect on our ability to believe Him when faced with a life and death situation.

We don't always have the control we think we have or would like to have. Our lives are very much affected by the decisions of others. The thing we can't do is live in self-pity and blame others or get mad at God. If we blame those before us, such as our parents and grandparents, then our grandchildren will blame us.

The decisions we must make must be based on the future and not on the past. The truth of the matter is, the way we respond to a situation hurts us more in the long run than the actual situation itself, if we respond negatively.

We must move forward and live with eternity on our minds and look for the day when we will be reunited with our loved ones who have left this life so early.

And to move forward, the greatest piece of weaponry my Commander in Chief, Jesus Christ, has given me to carry on the war and to fight the good fight of faith, is the incredible PEACE that takes away torment and fear. It is the ability to live in a war-torn world devastated by powers and principalities and still have PEACE.

Our fight is most effective against Satan when we fight with every shred of our being to **CAST THE WHOLE OF OUR CARE OVER ONTO JESUS**. In doing so, we destroy any hold the devil may have on us.

So when you pray and are believing God for things to change, remember that, in order to come to a place where we can truly trust God through every kind of circumstance:

1. We must learn to look at the overall scheme of things. God has a vast, gigantic plan that spans a hundred thousand lifetimes past the problems you find yourself in now.
2. Our most powerful weapon is **PEACE**. John 14:27: "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."

That's Supernatural Peace!

In order to experience His power and love here and now, **PRAY** and cast the care of your whole life and the lives of your loved ones onto His overall plan and learn to trust Him in everything.