

Title: God's Unfailing Love (Leviticus 26:44-45; Psalm 89:20-28)

The beauty of light... it has a way of warming up everything it touches, from a chilly barn to a cold cold heart. Glory!

I just love the depth and beauty of the light of His Word. It's so rich and rewarding...

"...like those of old, over whom You NEVER ruled, those who were NEVER called by Your name" (Isaiah 63:19).

And I love the warm light found in Isaiah. In the passage above, Isaiah is contrasting the difference with those who He has never personally known or ruled and comparing them to those whom He has always known, even from everlasting. Notice in verse 16 how he illustrates the limited capacity of man and how even Abraham couldn't orchestrate this, compared to God's unlimited and far reaching grace that has its deep roots in our everlasting Redeemer.

"Though Abraham and Israel had no clue who we were, You, O Lord, are our Father, our Redeemer FROM Everlasting is Your name."

If I understand the implications of what Isaiah is saying, specifically in verse 19, I can't help but come to the conclusion that:

God rules the righteous... those called by His name. Therefore, He doesn't personally nor graciously govern everyone... only those He's called and converted. We can say then, by all practical purposes, He commands those whom He calls and converts... glory!!!

He's not only fit to rule... but His committed to lovingly and graciously rule each of His servants... forever! And, as Isaiah has already mentioned, He will zealously lead His people through all they have to face for His kingdom and glory. (Isaiah 9:6-7 ; 42:13 ; 43)

For His salvation is not a fly by night high... its implications are far reaching on both sides of time, it is from everlasting to everlasting! Hallelujah... (2 Timothy 1:7-12).

Think about this:

There are two things that CANNOT be reversed or ever undone once they happen. What are they?

- (1) Being born
- (2) Being born again

When my momma had me... there was no reversing it. There may have been times she wanted to... but no can do. And when I was born again... it was a forever deal.

I encourage you to rejoice and celebrate it today, even if you may not "feel" like He's fulfilling all His promises. He's faithful, and never waste a thing... and His radiant beams can warm the coldest of hearts.

God is faithful... He finishes what starts and fulfills what He says. He always backs up His promises and commitments, in spite of us, for His name's sake. He keeps all His covenants. And though He will chasten us He'll never take His loving kindness from us. Glory!!! And He promised to test or refine us.

Tested by fire... a faith and obedience that can't be tested is one that shouldn't be trusted.

King Hezekiah did what was GOOD and RIGHT and TRUE before the Lord of glory and grace. And, in every work of faith and labor of love he did, he did it with all his heart and with much success (2 Chronicles 31:20-21).

What followed this great reformation of kingdom life by the king of Judah? An assault and direct attack of the enemy... one that God would use to test the faith and obedience of the king and all his people. Both, Isaiah 36 and 2 Chronicles 32, reveals the threats, the lies, the pride and the flames used to test and reveal the purity of their faith and the unwavering faithfulness of the King of kings and Lord of lords... for whom they had been doing what is GOOD, and what is RIGHT, and what is TRUE.

Throughout God's word we find that He uses trouble in the process of His transformation. He uses trials and suffering like a professor that uses his OWN textbook to reenforce what H'se been teaching us. The storms that the Lord has designed are like a syllabus... they have been well thought out and orchestrated to teach us valuable lessons on how He sees things and also to prepare us for the fire that will test our faith and for sweet future of His presence and glory.

The ordained sufferings we experience, as a child of God, are part of the curriculum of a disciple of the Lord Jesus. It's all been established to mold us and manifest the life of Christ through our lives. And in the process the Lord builds a hope in us... a hope that will NEVER disappoint. He uses us, and our experience, through the storm to bring comfort, strength and salvation to others. It's all part of His wonder-filled plan. 2 Corinthians 1 and 4 are great chapters that unveil these principles and how God's designed affliction and how He NOTHING is wasted in His kingdom. Romans 5:1-5 unveils His process of building hope in His servants. 1 Peter 1 - 5 gives us a glimpse of His refining process. See, a faith that can't be tested...is a type of faith that can't be trusted! And a faith that cannot be trusted is a faith you don't want any part of...

Stephen, while preaching one of the most powerful messages ever preached, said this about Joseph:

"But God was with Him and delivered him OUT of all his troubles, and gave him favor and wisdom..." (Acts 7:9-10)

What he DID NOT say is FROM all his troubles... but he DID say, "OUT of all his troubles." Heavens, there is a world of difference between the words and their meanings...and thankfully so.

God didn't keep Daniel away from the lions but He did keep the lions away from Him. Think about it... the Lord didn't protect Daniel FROM the den but He did protect him

while IN the den. He's never promised to protect us FROM the storms — but He had promised to protect us while we're IN the storm and deliver us OUT of all our troubles.

God didn't keep the three Hebrew boys away from the fire but He did keep the fire away from them (Daniel 3).

I can't help but remember what Daniel said...

"The FIRE had no POWER...over their bodies" (Daniel 3:27).

- Not a singed hair.
- Not a scorched garment or thread.
- Not a scent of smoke...not even a hint of it.

He didn't deliver Joseph FROM all his troubles but He did deliver him OUT of each and every one them... glory!!!

Blessings friends... dens, dungeons, storms, floods, and fires are as much a blessings and sanctuary, even more so than they are troubling, for those who are His and continually believe He is able bring them through it all. (Ephesians 3:20-21 & Acts 7).

Favor always elevates—so others can evaluate—how easy you dominate—without needing to be praised as a potentate. (Isaiah 43)

"O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. If that is the case, our God is ABLE to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us from your hand, O king. BUT if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up" (Daniel 3:16-18).

We will not praise Him in the darkest hours of our lives...if we fail to prize and live for Him when life is easy!

No singe...

No scorch...

No smell...

Embrace the furnace, my friends, it's through the fires of His furnace that we are refined for His service. Have a great day loving Him and His wondrous ways and keep thanking Him for the flames of transformation.

They will make us more approachable and patient to help untangle the mess that our families, friends and foes are in.

Nick Holden