



By Dr. Richard Youngblood

Question: If we love God, why do we continue to have troubles in our lives?

Loving God does not insure that we will never have any problems. It simply means God will be with us through these difficulties. Only when we reach the time when “the will of God is done on earth as it is in heaven” will all troubles cease (Matthew 6:10).

The book of Job in the Old Testament introduces us to a man who continued to trust in God’s loving goodness even though he faced as much pain as perhaps any man who has ever lived. Satan said that Job feared God only because God had put a hedge around him and protected him. Satan told God: “But stretch out your hand and strike everything he has, and he will surely curse you to your face” (Job 1:11). God then allowed Satan to test Job, and Job proved that Satan was wrong. Although Job did not understand why he was suffering, he was confident that God would redeem him from all his troubles (Job 19:25-27). The end of Job’s story demonstrates not only Job’s faithfulness but also God’s faithfulness (Job 42).

Job’s testimony of faithfulness in the midst of trouble reminds us that genuine love is motivated not by what it can get but by what it can give. To love God only because we see him as a way to keep out of trouble is essentially loving ourselves. How would you feel about your children loving you only as long as you give them what they want? We also need to see that genuine love recognizes the need for loved ones to be challenged to grow stronger through facing the difficulties that our world brings upon us. Parents who love their children want those children to grow toward maturity instead of always remaining weak and dependent. For this reason, loving parents correct and discipline their children. The Bible says: “Our fathers disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, that we may share in his holiness. No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it” (Hebrews 12:10-11).

Experiencing troubles in our lives does not mean that God has abandoned us. He carries us through these troubles. Nothing can separate us from his love: “neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation,

will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 8:38-39). To prove his commitment of love to us, he gave up his own Son in suffering and death on the cross (Romans 8:32).

As difficult as trials and troubles may seem at times, many blessings in life can come through them. When we trust in God, Jesus will be with us; and all things will be made to work for our good in God’s plan for our lives (Romans 8:28). As a result, we can be “more than conquerors through him who loved us” (Romans 8:37). Therefore, let us be thankful even in our troubles (Ephesians 5:20).

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