

people and situations, what thoughts and attitudes we will have, and whether we will do things God's way or the devil's. Behind the scenes, the devil would tempt us to respond to circumstances in a negative, destructive way. His plan is to get you to lose your trust in God because of your situation, as well as hurt as many people in the process. God, on the other hand, is committed to allowing the circumstances in your life as an opportunity to show His life-changing power and grace in you and to declare His glory to the world around you. Read I Peter 1:6,7. So remember, whenever you face negative circumstances, you will find yourself in a spiritual battle as to your thinking, attitude, and behavior.

God's Promise to You Concerning Circumstances

"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) Whether our circumstances are good or bad, God can use them in our life for our benefit and His purposes.

God Uses Circumstances To Build Us

"Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing." (James 1:2-4) There is a difference between temptation and testing. The devil tempts in order to bring you into sin and failure, God tests (allows) through circumstance to bring you to strength. God's plan is to build the spiritual quality of your Christian life by allowing circumstances in your life that will expose your spiritual weaknesses, cause you to trust in Him, and help you make the needed changes in your life. Read Romans 5:3-5. God will also use circumstances as a way of

disciplining you to bring correction. Read Hebrews 12:4-11.

God Will Bless Us Through Circumstances

Not only will God build us spiritually by allowing negative circumstances in our life, but He will bless us with positive circumstances. Because God is committed to caring for us and meeting our needs, He often will intervene in our lives through positive circumstances which He has orchestrated for our spiritual, emotional, physical, and material blessing. These blessings may be seen as proof of His love, but keep in mind that the real, ever-lasting proof has already been demonstrated through Christ's death.

Are You Living In The Truth of God's Love?

Are you living your Christian life based upon the truth that God has once and for all demonstrated His love for you? Or, are you doubting God's love because of negative circumstances? God wants you to trust in His love and come to the place in your Christian life where you no longer judge His love based upon circumstances.

But God

Demonstrated

His Love To You

Do You Live Your Christian Life On God's Love Or Circumstances?

KNOW THE TRUTH



"...AND THE TRUTH WILL SET YOU FREE."

Pastor Lynn Kern

"For God demonstrated His love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8)

Circumstances and God's Love

Why do so many Christians feel as if God doesn't love them? Is it possible that some feel this way as a result of circumstances in life that make them question God's love? If God loves me and is committed to my well-being as His child, surely He wouldn't let this or that happen. Does the circumstances you face in life make you question God's love for you?

He Loves Me, He Loves Me Not

It seems to be part of our natural reasoning to immediately question God's love when bad things (circumstances) happen to us or to others we know. Unfortunately, when we allow circumstances to be the determining factor as to whether God loves us or not, then we miss the true basis of God's love. We will fall into the trap of believing that God expresses His love by making good things happen to us and withholds His love by making bad things happen. We will wrongly assume that God's love and commitment to us changes with the circumstances.

The Basis of God's Love For You

"For God demonstrated His love for us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8) That is the basis of God's love for you and He will not demonstrate His love in any greater way. Every Christian needs to stop and seriously consider what God did in sending His Son to be the sacrificial punishment for their sin and rebellion. This one act clearly and dramatically displayed God's commitment of love to us through a plan to condemn His sinless, holy Son in our place. The plan was conceived in love by Father God and carried out in love by Jesus Christ, all for you.

"But the Lord was pleased to crush Him, putting Him to grief... As a result of the anguish of His soul, He (God) will see it and be satisfied;... My Servant (Jesus) will justify the many, as He will bear their iniquities." (Isaiah 53:10a,11) "For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son... (through death)" (John 3:16a) "Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends." (John 15:13)

God planned it as His expression of love for you. Jesus carried out His love for you by dying on the cross. Don't be tempted to look for any greater demonstration of God's love for you!

Rejecting God's Love

Christians may overlook God's love by demanding that God prove His love through other means. They demand that God prove His love to them by changing their circumstance or by doing something that benefits their immediate situation. To them, that is real proof of His love. This attempt to get God to fix their circumstance is not only self-centered, but it rejects the very love and plan of God. A true, loving parent's love for their child is not shown by fixing their children's problems, but by their steady commitment to love them. So it is with God's love. God's plan is that His children know that He loves them no matter what circumstance they face.

Living According to Circumstances

When Christians live according to circumstances rather than trusting in God's love, a number of negative consequences can occur. First, they can get a distorted view of God and His commitment to their Christian life. Second, they can find it hard to trust God because they believe He failed to protect them

from bad circumstances in their life. Third, they can dangerously fall into spiritual confusion or error by attempting to make a spiritual interpretation of every circumstance they face. Some will credit God for manipulating their life with circumstances, while others will blame the devil for every circumstance that is negative. The truth is, God never planned for His people to live their life according to circumstances, but to live above their circumstances by trusting a loving and committed Heavenly Father who already demonstrated His love for them.

Circumstances Are A Part of Life

First of all, we must come to realize that negative circumstances are not an unusual occurrence. Life is full of situations that are difficult, disappointing, and sometimes tragic. God and the devil aren't responsible for everything that happens. Most often, circumstances happen as the result of the behavior of others, personal choices, and the temporal world around us. If you have car trouble, a financial crisis, become ill, lose your job, have your boss or neighbor mistreat you, etc.; these are all things that can happen to us as part of living life on the planet. It doesn't mean that God made it happen or that He is trying to tell us something. Nor does it mean that you are under some spiritual attack from the devil. Accept the fact that most of life's circumstances are a natural part of life and not a part of some spiritual "game of chess" between God and the devil.

Circumstances Often Result In Spiritual Warfare

However, the way you respond to or handle the circumstances you face is something that God and the devil are definitely involved in. These circumstances become the battleground for determining how we will act and react to