

WHY DO THE RIGHTEOUS *SUFFER?*



MORRIS CERULLO

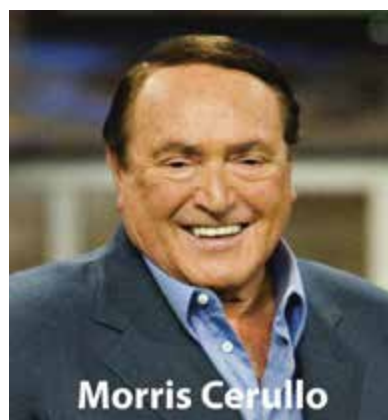
WHY DO THE RIGHTEOUS SUFFER?

Morris Cerullo

Published by
Morris Cerullo World Evangelism, Inc.
San Diego, California

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction	iii
Chapter One	
Oh, God, Why?	8
Chapter Two	
God's Vital Relationship To Man	19
Chapter Three	
The Scene Behind The Seen	30
Chapter Four	
Is It God's Will For Me To Suffer?	35
Chapter Five	
Is Your Love For God Based On An Ulterior Motive?	43
Chapter Six	
Is God In Total Control?	49
Chapter Seven	
Are Outward Appearances The Criteria Of True Spiritual Character?	52
Chapter Eight	
Can Man's Wisdom Understand God's Work?	57
Chapter Nine	
What In The World Is Going On?	63
Chapter Ten	
Something Is Happening Right Now!	72
Chapter Eleven	
"I Care" Prayer Ministry	75
Chapter Twelve	
Your Point Of Contact To Receive God's Power	78



INTRODUCTION

WHAT THIS BOOK IS ALL ABOUT

When a writer for a national magazine interviewed me several years ago, one of the first questions she asked me was, “Describe Morris Cerullo to me. How do you see yourself?” It wasn’t a strange question. It was strange that this had occurred just a few days after my wife Theresa and I had been discussing this very same thing.

We were sharing together, and I said to Theresa, “If there is one element within me that God saw years ago in my life as a little Jewish boy, when He reached out and picked me up, I believe I know what it was.”

It is really true that God reached down into that Jewish Orthodox orphanage to pick me up. Many are called, but few are chosen. I never

did seek God. Through a divine miracle and predestination of God, through His sovereignty, He chose this little boy. I know He had a reason.

I believe in predestination based on God's foreknowledge. God doesn't predestinate people to hell or predestinate people to heaven, but He has complete foreknowledge of all things. He knows what is in the hearts of people and how they will respond to situations.

If there was one thing that God saw within me, it was that He knew there was a heart of compassion within this Jewish orphan. He knew that if He could take this boy, if He could tap that well of compassion in his innermost being, He could use that instrument, that life, to meet the needs of humanity.

I don't say that with a proud heart. God knows whether a person is humble or not. I know the deep humility that I feel in my own heart. I say this with all honesty. I believe the compassion that I feel for the needs of people is one of the prime, motivating reasons behind my entire life and ministry.

There are so many deep, very desperate needs in lives. I am so deeply concerned about the needs of humanity that intercessory prayer always has been an integral part of this ministry. The strength of my prayers (my relationship with God) is the main thing that I have to offer people. I promised God long ago that I would pray over the needs of the people as if they were my very own needs.

This prayer ministry has never diminished or stagnated. In fact, it has been enlarged and strengthened. God has spoken to us that this prayer ministry is so important that it has been made a part of the Seven-Point Master Plan For Souls, which make up the Morris Cerullo World Evangelism ministry. We call them the Seven Ministries of Caring.

The sixth of these seven specific points of ministry is the intense, personal "I Care" Prayer Ministry. God is using it in a greater way today

than ever before to meet the needs of humanity for the many people who are unable to travel to our crusades or conferences or to meet with us personally.

God is using this outreach in such a tremendous way that many receive miraculous answers to prayer before they ever receive my answer to their letter of request by mail; so strong is the work of the Spirit. Many others receive the miracle they need while they are holding the letter of response in their hands.

Several years ago, while this book was in preparation, I received a letter from an elderly gentleman in Philadelphia, who wrote:

Dear Morris Cerullo:

I used your prayer you sent me with faith, and it removed the cataracts from both of my eyes in three or four days. They are now as clear as they were 60 years ago. I went back for a final examination at the Penn University Hospital at 34 Spruce Street six months later, and no cataracts could be found. My birthday is November 13. I'm 81 years old. No operation had to be performed by the doctors!

I told the eye doctors that Dr. Jesus did the operation! At my age, I did not want a surgical operation on my eyes.

Dr. Cerullo, I know you are a gifted man from the Lord Jesus. With your prayer and my faith, they worked perfectly. May God ever bless you to carry on such wonderful works.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

H.D.

The "I Care" Prayer Ministry involves more than just a prayer request being sent in, a quick prayer being spoken over it, and a form letter being sent back. It is a very real, very vital ministry. The complete concept of the "I Care" Prayer Ministry, as it has been given to me by God, and

how you can be an important part of it, is described in detail in the last chapter of this book.

It is not God's intention that our lives be free from all problems and free from all battles. The most consecrated, dedicated Christian is going to have difficulties to face. You and I will encounter problems. We will face battles. We will have trials come into our lives that we never could understand with the natural mind.

There will be mountains before you at times. Storm clouds will come upon the personal horizon of your life. I have never known one single person from pauper to royalty who did not have some problem or some trial in his or her life. People have problems. You will have problems. I will have problems, BUT, the sure Word from God is this:

Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the Lord delivereth him out of them all.

Psalms 34:19

ALL! Not 10 percent, not 50 percent, not even 99 percent, but ALL!

We will have problems, but we can have the victory in every battle. We can come out on top in every circumstance. We can know perfect peace in our heart no matter what the outlook in the natural. Yes, right here on this earth. You do not have to wait to go to heaven to have heaven in your life.

There is an answer from God to every question that we have, an honest answer, if we approach our questions openly and sincerely before Him. God wants to dialogue with us about our problems. He wants to answer our questions. He wants us to know our rights, our privileges, and our position in Him. He says, *Come now, and let us reason together ...* (Isaiah 1:18).

This is just what we are doing in this book, conversing (having a dialogue) with God. As we come before Him, we will receive our answers. The question—why do the righteous suffer?—is one of the most

perplexing questions that ever comes upon the hearts and minds of those in distress, but there is an answer. Some of the questions that perplex our heart are:

- If God is such a God of love and mercy, why is there war?
- Why is there sorrow?
- Why is there so much sickness and pain in the world?

You will find answers to these and other questions as you read this book. Not only will you find answers, you will find victory—victory for every battle, for every trial, for every single circumstance of your life.

- There is not a single problem that does not have a solution.
- There is not a single battle that cannot be waged victoriously.
- There is not a single circumstance of your life that cannot be mastered completely.

The objective of this book and of my personal ministry to your life, is to see you living in the full scope of victory, the full scope of the joy of the Lord, the full scope of the peace of God, and the full scope of victory over every circumstance, every problem, and every test that comes into your life. That is what this book is all about.

God has a Word for us NOW!

CHAPTER 1

OH, GOD, WHY?

Five inches of rain had fallen in Georgia the first weekend in November. Shortly after 1 a.m. Sunday, the rain-soaked, earthen dam above Toccoa Falls Bible College collapsed, releasing a 30-foot mass of water that inundated the college buildings, as well as 11 houses and 25 trailer homes. When the churning flood had passed, 39 members of the college community had perished, including 18 children. Why on earth would God allow a thing like that to happen?

Oral Roberts is a man who has spent his lifetime on the forefront of evangelical Christian service—from the humble beginnings of a tent ministry to the presidency of the outstanding Christian university that bears his name. He has prayed for and counseled countless thousands of people going through dark and tragic moments.

In February of 1977, Oral and his wife, Evelyn, were to experience heartbreak of their own. A light plane that was carrying their daughter, son-in-law, and another fine young Christian couple, crashed in Kansas. All four lives were lost. Why would God let something like that happen in the family of a man like Oral Roberts? Why?

I have some very dear friends who have been associated with me in the ministry for a number of years. Many years ago, their little six-year-old girl failed to return from a visit to a friend's house. For four days and nights she was the object of an intense search by police, sheriff's deputies, search and rescue teams, friends, neighbors, and even many strangers. Eventually, her little body was found at the location where she had been brutally murdered by a neighborhood teenager.

Why would God permit such a brutal crime to touch the lives of this dedicated, God-fearing couple? Why would He let something like that happen to them? WHY?

I am not immune from tests and trials either. People look at Morris Cerullo. They see how God uses my prayer ministry. They see me stand before great crowds of people night after night. They see miracles of healing and deliverance brought to other lives. Many of them think, well, Brother Cerullo just has it easy. He is so close to God that God doesn't let anything bother him or touch his life. That is not true. I am human just like everyone else. My family is human. We know what heartbreak is and have had our own trials.

... he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.

Matthew 5:45

Several years ago, I was in deep prayer in the chapel of the World Evangelism headquarters in San Diego, California. I saw in the spirit a great black cloud moving in over the ministry. I didn't have to wait long before I found out what that cloud was. In just a little while, several men—who had been associated with this ministry in a very close way—rose up, perpetrated evil lies, and began to tear down and to destroy. One young man, whom I had treated as a son and had helped to get started in a ministry of his own, turned on us suddenly and went to great effort and great expense to try to discredit us for no reason that was naturally discernible. Another of these men sent out a libelous news release to all of the major news services, filled with terrible lies.

A strange part of this trial, one of the most difficult things for us to understand, was that Christians in high places of leadership—who knew the true story—would take no disciplinary action toward these men, even though they knew they were wrong.

Theresa and I went through very deep waters. Our integrity, all that we had sacrificed for over 20 years, was put to the test. I could not help comparing the trials we suffered at that time as being a little of what Jesus suffered at the hands of Judas. It reminded me of what David went through when he wrote: *Yea, mine own familiar friend, in whom I trusted, which did eat of my bread, hath lifted up his heel against me* (Psalms 41:9).

For it was not an enemy that reproached me; then I could have borne it: neither was it he that hated me that did magnify himself against me; then I would have hid myself from him: But it was thou, a man mine equal, my guide, and mine acquaintance. We took sweet counsel together, and walked unto the house of God in company.

Psalms 55:12-14

It would have been easy to ask why in our own circumstances. Why, Lord? You know the dedication of our hearts. You know the hours, the tears, the years of sweat that we have put into this ministry. You know we have given our own hearts and lives completely. You know how we have tried to help that young man, even at great financial expense of our own. Yet, you have let this happen. Why?

Even while I was deep in preparation for this very book, I had laid the manuscript aside temporarily to prepare for what I felt was perhaps the most important North American crusade we were ever to hold. The crusade was to take place in a very key area of our country. Added to that, television cameras were to film the entire proceedings so that we could share these great services with prime-time television audiences across North America.

On the very eve of this important event, my daughter, Susan, who has been such a tremendous blessing to our home personally, and who fills a very vital function in the World Evangelism ministry, was called upon to go through a personal Gethsemane, and with her, all of us.

Susan was deeply involved in preparation for her upcoming marriage. Many of the invitations had been sent, and the announcement to our friends had already been made through the pages of *Deeper Life* magazine.

A few weeks before the crusade, Susan and I had been talking together. I turned to Susan and said, “Susan, what if something happens, and the wedding is called off?” She said, “Oh, nothing is going to happen. Everything will be all right.” I said, “Yes, but what if something should happen. What then? Would you still believe that all things work together for good to them that love God, as it says in Romans 8:28?” “Of course,” she replied, and I knew she meant it.

Two days before the meeting was to begin, I was engulfed in the preparation for the thousand and one details which had to be attended to, when a traumatic personal experience took place in our family. God showed Susan definitely and strongly that proceeding with her personal plans for marriage to this particular man was not what God wanted.

I love my daughter very much. Her personal heartbreak was my own. Canceling the plans for her wedding was not an easy thing for her to do. As she shared with us, we all felt that the decision she was making was God’s Will. Still, it was not easy. It would have seemed reasonable to question God. Why, God? Why did You let the plans go this far only to step in and intervene at the last minute? Why, oh, God, why?

In that great auditorium on the opening night of the crusade, more than a thousand people answered the invitation to give their hearts to Jesus. Hundreds received healing for their bodies during the course of the service. Many of my aides knew of our personal sorrow, but none of them could know what was really going on in my life at that time. No one but Theresa, sitting near the front of the auditorium, could know what was truly going on in my own life as I ministered to the needs of others throughout that week.

Why? Why do the righteous suffer? The question is not why do sinners suffer, why the ungodly suffer, but why—when men and women

are living for God with all of their heart and are doing everything they know to please God—WHY do they suffer from sickness, from accidents, from lost loved ones, from their children getting involved in drugs, from financial failures, from all kinds of tragedies and afflictions. Why?

The question of why is probably the most perplexing question that any Christian ever has to face in their entire spiritual life. My mail every week is full of “why” letters. People write for prayer. They want help. They are seeking answers.

They say things like, Dr. Cerullo, I’ve lived for God all of my life. I’ve raised my children in the Church and taught them about God, but look at them. They’ve run away from home and have become punks. They’re into drugs. They’re in jail. They’re alcoholics. Brother Cerullo, why?

Another might say, Dr. Cerullo, I’m serving God with all of my heart. I pay my tithes, but I keep having unforeseen expenses. I just can’t seem to get ahead. I am always in a financial bind. Why?

Another would question, saying, I have been prayed for over and over, Brother Cerullo. I see people all around me getting healed, but I don’t get my healing. Why? What is wrong with me?

Yet another would write and say to me, Brother Cerullo, I tried to keep my family in church. We read the Bible and prayed together. But now my wife (or husband) has run off with someone else and has left me to raise our little children alone. Why did this happen to me?

These are just a few of the types of questions that continually pour into my office from the heart of troubled people. Let me share with you a heart-rending letter I received recently from an elderly lady:

Dr. Cerullo,

I believe in the power of prayer, but in 73 years I have suffered so much, to a point where I had not a bed to sleep in or a hole to call home. Brother Cerullo, I’m alone, though I have three children. I have

not seen two of them for 20 years. One I see, but his wife holds him around her wrist. I only saw him one year ago at a funeral, but it was not a mother and son meeting

I never did drink or smoke or ever do anything to hurt myself or to make the Lord angry at me. But I cannot suffer anymore. I am too old to go on. But your "Blessed" magazine seems to say there is hope. I love the Lord. Why do I suffer so? I love my children very much. I would die for them.

My body is broken down, tired from trying to work a bit for the roof over my head. I've asked the Lord to help me 100 times a day, a prayer from my inner being.

Why do I suffer? Why do my dear children forget me? Thank you for reading my letter of tears.

Yours in spirit,

Mrs. C. C.

YES, "MY LETTER OF TEARS."

There is no age limit or generation gap in suffering. This lady from Florida is only 21 years old, yet listen to her letter:

Dr. Cerullo,

My prayer request is I am lonely. Pray that I may find a husband. I have very bad bones in both of my legs. It takes four operations to correct it. My muscles are very weak, so that I sometimes tremble when I walk. I tried exercise, but nothing happened. I have been mistreated ever since was 12 years old by my teacher and the children in my school. I also was operated on when I was 12. They made my legs look unstraight, and everybody picks at me. I guess that is why I am so lonely. I quit school when I was 16 years old because I couldn't stand it any longer.

Now I am 21 years old, and nothing has changed. I am lonesome, unhappy, still being picked on, and my legs are getting worse. I don't know how much more I can take. I am at the end of my rope.

Dr. Cerullo, I hope I am not taking up too much of your time, but I had to talk to someone, and I feel that it should be you. I read your paper, and I believe in you, and pray. I pray a lot, but my prayers don't seem to help. I tried to kill myself once. My mother won't ever listen to me. I can't eat at times. I lose weight, and the doctors seem as if they can't help me. I took vitamins, but they didn't help.

The only place I go is to church, and I sing in the choir. I am not a bad person and don't do evil things. That's why I can't understand why I am suffering so long. I don't do anything. I can't stand it anymore. I would rather die than suffer any longer. Please, please help me. Pray for me also. I am nervous, too, that is why my writing is bad. Oh, please pray and help me.

*Yours in God's Name,
H.G.*

YES, "I CAN'T STAND IT ANYMORE."

A man in Sacramento, California, wrote this about his marital situation:

Brother Cerullo,

I've been writing to you for some time regarding my marriage, which was destroyed by Satan in December 1976. My wife seems worse, more bitter, no love, just doing her thing. Our children, ages 6 and 10, are being left here and there.

I'm not blaming anyone for my not receiving my answer from God. I do not blame God. I love Him. I praise Him for what He is doing and will continue to praise Him. I was only wondering why? I thank God for my marriage for the way it is (Ephesians 5:20). I will continue to trust Him, and He will bring it to pass (Psalms 37:5).

I thank you for your prayers. I will continue to pray and support your ministry. God bless you, Morris Cerullo, and your family.

*Your brother in Jesus,
T.M.*

YES, "I DO NOT BLAME GOD. I WAS ONLY WONDERING WHY?"

From Canada came this desperate plea:

Dear Brother Cerullo,

Christian greetings! Since July 1, I dreamed about my mother, step-father and my ex-husband. My mom died in 1963. Ever since then, things are happening, hitting me between the eyes.

My checking privileges have been closed. How do I feel? This because of the insurance company not sending on time, regarding my account.

Second, it's very difficult to live in a non-Christian home. The kids are screaming, she's nagging from morning until night or complaining, always negative about everything. I feel like grabbing and running to the end of the world. I know I won't get nowhere running.

I'm tired of living in poverty. Why can't I get a financial miracle, funds for a home, furniture, a car? In due time? When? Twenty-five months in a cast, can't work. I'm just helpless.

Can God? Did He forsake me? Did He leave me out? Am I not a child of God? Sinners get blessed financially, healing, prosperity. Where do I stand? Doesn't God hear my petition?

I have my heart open to help others in any shape or form. I phoned some friends. They have no time. I phoned my daughter. She's too busy. But when anyone wants any help from me, writing letters, pray when they are desperate, co-sign things for others, but no one helps me. It's hard. When is my change of luck coming?

Please write. I have no one to turn to. What have you in store for me from God?

Daily friend

“CAN GOD? DID HE FORSAKE ME?”

Not all of the questions come in the form of letters to this office. Such questions are everywhere, in the Church as well as in the home. For years I have listened in churches and to different ministers who have stood up and said such things as, “Poor Sister Jones. She died last week from cancer. If only she had had faith to believe God, she would have been healed.”

However, when I would consider the life of “poor Sister Jones,” I just couldn’t accept that explanation. Here would be a little woman accused of not having faith in God. I could look at the life of that individual and see that she had just as much faith in God as Morris Cerullo; yet, she still died from cancer.

The minister’s explanation that she died because she didn’t have faith was what the youth of today call “a cop-out,” an easy explanation. It really isn’t the answer, and it does not explain why Sister Jones did not receive her healing.

In great Holy Spirit meetings all over this continent of North America, and in many other countries of the world, we have seen God perform great miracles of healing. The mute speak, the crippled leave their wheelchairs and walk, tumors drop off, and cancers disappear. But the stubborn fact remains that in spite of the greatness of the miracles and the great numbers of miracles, not everyone is healed. Sometimes, a person coming in contact with the message of the healing power of God for the very first time is healed, while someone who has gone to church and believed in God for an entire lifetime is not healed.

When I speak of healing, I am not referring to physical needs only, but healing for the total man, for problems too big for man to solve. God wants us to be a whole person—mind, body, and spirit.

One of the questions most frequently asked of me by members of the radio, television, and newspaper staffs in press conferences around the world is: Dr. Cerullo, why is it that some people do not receive a miracle?

It is easy to understand why the *unrighteous* suffer, why the alcoholic's home breaks up, why the drug addict gets put in jail, or why the sexually promiscuous ends up in the hospital. They have broken laws, many times both the laws of man and the laws of God. Both earthly and spiritual laws carry penalty clauses if they are broken.

When Saul of Tarsus (who became Paul, the apostle) was on the road to Damascus to further persecute the Christians of that day, the Lord overtook him in a dramatic vision and visitation. One of the things Jesus said to him was, ... *it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks* (Acts 9:5). Proverbs 13:15 tells us, ... *the way of transgressors is hard*. The Living Bible says, *The rebel walks a thorny, treacherous road ...* (Proverbs 22:5).

But what about the man or the woman who is *not* kicking against the pricks, yet is suffering untold agony of heart and mind? What about the *nontransgressor* who finds himself helpless on a bed of affliction? What about the *nonrebel* who finds his pathway full of thorny problems? Is there an answer? If so, what is the answer? This is one of the most important questions asked by people living in our world today.

I sincerely believe that God has given us, in this book, the seeds of a breakthrough that deals with the solution spiritually and intellectually and practically in a way very relevant to the needs of lives today. What God has given us in these pages is not just a sugar-coated pill or something superficial. It is not a “cop-out.” It is not “beating around the bush” (not getting to the point) or stalling and then leaving you up in the air.

God has given us something on which we can get a firm grip that will answer the perplexities of why certain things happen to us, even though we are His loving and obedient children. Beloved, there is an answer. It is to be found in man's vital relationship to God and in God's relationship to man. I pray that God will make these relationships and the answers to your questions so real and so rich through the pages of this book that you never again will need to ask, oh, God, why?

CHAPTER 2

GOD'S VITAL RELATIONSHIP TO MAN

Before we take up the more personalized, specialized question of why the righteous suffer, there is a need to examine the overall question of pain and suffering. Where did the pain come from in the first place? Where did suffering originate? Why would a loving God permit wars, murders, starvation, sickness, and personal disasters?

Every time we pick up a newspaper or listen to the news on the radio or television, we learn of tremendous tragedies taking place around the world. There are constant catastrophes occurring—earthquakes, famines, floods, airplane crashes, wars, bombings, fires, epidemics, etc. It seems that every time statistics are given they reflect a sharp increase in the number of teenage pregnancies, in suicides, in drug addiction, in burglaries, in robberies, in divorces, in bankruptcies, etc. It seems as if evil is being compounded and multiplied on every side.

We don't have to look to the news media to find people with tremendous needs. They are all around us—people with heartbreak, incurable illness, mental anguish, loneliness, and despair. Often, we don't have to look outside of our own circle of friends, our own families, our own lives, to find sorrow that at times seems completely overwhelming.

A young couple struggles with a mounting load of debt and watches helplessly while the bank forecloses on their home, and the finance company drives away their car.

A mother notices a peculiar odor in her son's room, traces it to a dresser drawer, and finds a bag of marijuana there.

A father gets a late-night call from the police department. His under-aged, runaway daughter has been picked up for prostitution. They want him to come to the police station.

An elderly woman rummages through the trash pile behind a grocery store looking for items which were too spoiled for the store to sell but which may not be too spoiled to become her next meal.

A forsaken young wife pens a tragic note, "I can't stand it anymore," turns on the gas jets, and lies down to die.

An estranged husband waits outside his wife's apartment with a gun. When she emerges, he shoots both her and himself.

A little child finds a box of matches and takes them into a closet to investigate. The resultant fire claims that young life before it has hardly started.

It may not be anything as dramatic as any of these things. It could be just the day-to-day hopelessness and despair of being all alone with no one to talk to or the constant pain of crippling arthritis or the loss of a job or a sick child or an empty cupboard or an accident with the car or an attack on your reputation or an unfaithful mate or the death of a loved one. The list could go on and on. What is the answer?

If God is a God of love, where is His love? Why does it permit such tragedy, such loneliness, such pain, such loss? If God is a God of love, why is there so much hatred and killing? Why are little children born crippled? Why do millions die every day from hunger? What is the answer? How can we understand such a God? How can we relate to such a God?

Before we can understand any of the above, before we can understand our relationship to God, it is necessary that we first understand God's

vital relationship to man. It is true that all of the tragedies and sorrows I listed take place in this present world. It is just as true that it never was God's plan for mankind to experience all of these ills.

To understand what God's plan for mankind was, and what happened to interrupt that plan, we have to go back to the very beginning of man, actually to the beginning of the world.

No matter what Charles Darwin said or Robert Ingersoll or anyone who has some other theory about how the world came into being said, I believe the Bible, which says, *IN the beginning God created the heaven and the earth* (Genesis 1:1). The account of God's creation of the world is contained in the first two chapters of the Bible. I believe it occurred just as it is written.

God created the heavens and the earth. He created the atmosphere and the light. He created the waters and the dry land. He created the creatures in the water and the fowl in the air. He created all the vegetation and all the cattle. God created man and woman. Every time God created something, He created it perfectly.

At the end of each day's creation in Genesis, God saw his work and said that it was good. Every time He created something else, He saw that it was good also. After God created man, however, He saw that it was *very good*. Genesis 1:31 says, *And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good ...*

Man was God's crowning creation. God created man for fellowship with Himself for communion. He wanted someone with whom He could relate in a very close way. God loved man so much, and had so many wonderful plans for Him, that the place in which He placed man was paradise itself.

The Garden of Eden, man's first home, had every kind of plant that was good to look at and which had good fruit to eat on it. Because God knew that man would never be happy if he were idle, He gave him a

pleasant, satisfying task to perform, *And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it* (Genesis 2:15).

Because God did not want man to be alone, He created the animals, fish, and fowl, and gave man dominion over all of them. Then, because man needed someone he could relate to on a more personal level, God gave him a wife, a helper who was fitting for him, to be by his side.

Man was created perfectly. His circumstances were created perfectly. He was whole spiritually, physically, and morally. He had a sound mind. He had meaningful work. He had a perfect atmosphere. There was no foul air or polluted rivers in the Garden of Eden. There was no sickness in Adam, no congestion in his lungs, no dysfunction of any of his human organs, no pain in his members, no sinus problem, no cancer, no backache, no nervous condition, etc. God did everything He could to make man's condition, his position, and his surroundings absolutely perfect in every minute detail. To top it all off, God came down in the cool of the evening to personally fellowship and commune with Adam, ... *they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day* ... (Genesis 3:8).

Perfection. Love. Soundness. Provision. Health. Happiness. Companionship. Communion. It was all there. It was all God's will for man. There was even the Tree of Life, of which God told Adam that if he ate of it, he would live forever. The communion God had with man was very special to Him. Isaiah 43:7 says, ... *I have created him for my glory, I have formed him; yea, I have made him.*

There was something very special about this creation, an added something that God put into this creature that made the relationship all the sweeter. God made man in His own image, as recounted in Genesis 1:27, *So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.*

That does not mean that God has human features such as you and I have. It does not mean that I can look into the mirror and see what God looks like. He does not have human features and human characteristics.

The image of God is not in our outside appearance. It is inside us, in our spirit. It is a divine attribute of God Himself. It is the power of decision and action which we know as our will.

God did not want his communion with man to be based on imposed responses. He did not make man a puppet or a robot and compel his worship or fellowship. When children are very young, they love to play with dolls. They will treat dolls as children. They spank them, feed them, change them, and put them to bed. They make that doll do everything they want it to do. As they mature, however, such compelled response is completely unrealistic and very unsatisfying. Who wants to have to spank a child to make him love you? Who wants to have to forcefully bend a child's arms around your neck to make him hug you?

There is something about us that seeks and wants love and communion that is freely given. I want my wife to love me because she wants to love me, not because I try to force her to do so. I want my children to love me willingly because they respond to me as a person, not because I make them respond in a certain way by threats or force.

God wanted and expected that warmth of response and love in His communion with man. He did not tie strings to man and say, now, when I pull this string, you lift your arm, and when I pull that one, move your head. He placed within man a freedom of choice, a freedom of total happiness, total prosperity, and total well-being in all goodness of God. This was the plan God had for man. The plan did not include sin, sickness, or death.

God never intended for man to know sin. He never intended for man to know sickness. He never intended for man to know death. His intention for man was total health, total provision, total happiness, total prosperity, and total well-being in all things. God's vital relationship with man always has been a relationship of love and complete caring.

The sin, sickness, death, sorrow, pain, war, and hurt that is in the world today did not come out of God's relationship with man. No unhappiness

or sorrow springs from the blessing of God's relationship with man. Every unhappiness, every sorrow that has ever come upon this world or upon mankind was caused by man's disobedience to God.

Man's relationship to God is that man is under the curse of his own disobedience to God. How did this happen? It happened because of the unique, God-like characteristics which God placed within Adam—the self-will, the freedom of choice.

There would have been no point in God giving Adam freedom of choice if He had given him nothing to choose. Therefore, God devised a very simple, very unsophisticated test so that Adam could exercise his right of choice.

And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

Genesis 2:16-17

What a simple test! What a clear choice! Man could eat of all the good fruit, including the Tree of Life. He could enjoy the good things that God had provided for him forever. He would never know pain. He would never know sorrow. He would never know alienation from God. He would never know heartache. He would never know want. He would never know sin.

On the other hand, eating of the one forbidden fruit would bring certain death. God had clearly warned Adam. Giving man the freedom of choice was not a precedent in God's creative processes. He had given a will to created beings before.

Prior to the creation of the earth and the creation of man, prior to the creation of the Garden of Eden, something had transpired up in the heavenlies that was destined to make a tremendous impact upon the earthly creation.

God had created beings in heaven, which we know as angels. These angels had also been given the right of choice. One of the highest ranking

angels, one named Lucifer, took that right of choice, that self-will that God had given him, and instead of using it to do God's Will, instead of using it to worship and serve God, Lucifer decided he would exalt himself, that he would be like God.

How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.

Isaiah 14:12-14

Lucifer led a rebellion in heaven which included a third of the angels which had been created. However, God is invincible. He is almighty. He is sovereign. There was no way for Lucifer, whom we know as Satan, to overcome God or to succeed in taking over the Kingdom of heaven from Him, absolutely no way.

Instead, Satan was defeated by God and was cast out of heaven as partial punishment. Total and final punishment has been decreed against him in the future. Jesus told of having been present to see Satan's punishment. *And he said unto them [to his disciples], I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven* (Luke 10:18).

Many erroneously teach that when God cast Satan out of heaven, He cast him to earth as punishment and gave the earth to him for his dominion and his principality. This is absolutely not true. God made the earth for man. He gave man dominion.

And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth. And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which is the

fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat. And to every beast of the earth, and to every fowl of the air, and to every thing that creepeth upon the earth, wherein there is life, I have given every green herb for meat: and it was so.

Genesis 1:28-30

God had made the earth and everything in it for man. It was man's dominion and heritage. Satan saw with jealousy what God had given man, and he mapped a new strategy. He had not been able to get at God directly in heaven, but now he saw a way to get at God through God's prize creation—man. He came into the Garden of Eden in the form of a serpent. He beguiled Eve first. Through her, he got to Adam, and through Adam, he got to God. He struck at the very apple of God's eye.

The account of the temptation of Adam and Eve is found in the third chapter of the Book of Genesis. Satan very subtly attacked God's goodness. He inferred that God had withheld something good from Adam and Eve by denying them the right to eat of the one forbidden tree. Then Satan disputed God's Word. God had told Adam that death would surely result if they ate of the fruit of that tree. Satan accused God of lying, assuring Adam and Eve that they would *not* die if they ate of that tree. In fact, Satan promised them that good, not evil, would come if they disobeyed God.

It is very common in the world today for people to make jokes about the temptation of Adam and Eve. There have been many so-called comedy sketches on television about it. Advertising campaigns have been built around Eve seducing Adam with the offer of an apple. A so-called comical line that has become the famous saying of a well-known comedian is "The devil made me do it." That is supposed to be hilariously funny.

Let me tell you something. There was nothing funny, and there was nothing light about the day when Adam deliberately raised the fruit of that forbidden tree to his lips. Adam did more than just temporarily dabble in a minor disobedience to God. With that one bite, with that

one act, what Adam did was to take the keys of dominion of this world, which God had given to him, and turn his dominion and his lordship of this planet voluntarily over into the hands of Satan.

Instead of Adam using his God-given will to obey God, he used it to defy God. He yielded himself and all of his possessions to Satan. He handed over to Satan the dominion that God had given to man. With that one act of willful disobedience, evil entered the world and has stayed to plague mankind ever since. This was not the result of something *God* did; it was the result of man's disobedience.

Because God is righteous, because He had announced the penalty of disobedience, because His Word is immutable and unchangeable, a terrible curse came upon the earth. A curse came upon the serpent, which had been the instrument by which Satan invaded the Garden. A curse came upon Adam. A curse came upon Eve. Through them, because we are all the seed of Adam, the result and the curse of that disobedience has been passed down to all of Adam's progeny since that time, from generation to generation.

Man's disobedience not only brought sin; it also opened the door for sickness and death and all of the other experiences that God never intended for man to have or to know. This nature of man that you and I possess became unregenerate. That is why the Bible says, *For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;* (Romans 3:23). That is why the Bible also says, *Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me* (Psalms 51:5).

But there was one thing that sin and disobedience did not bring. It did not bring a change in God's vital relationship to man. That relationship had been one of love, caring, and provision. It is still the same relationship of love today. Hardly had the words of God's judgment for the act of sin been spoken before God revealed how much He still loved man. Almost simultaneously with the words of judgment came the promise of God

to provide the means of nullifying that judgment and of returning the dominion and jurisdiction over this earth to man.

And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel (Genesis 3:15). This is the first of many promises throughout the Bible that tell of the great love God has for man, such love that it caused Him to send His own Son to become the curse for us. *For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him* (2 Corinthians 5:21). *Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:* (Galatians 3:13).

Perhaps the best loved of the many assurances of God's love for us is to be found in John 3:16, *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*

God's vital relationship with man continues to be one of extreme love and of providing complete restoration of everything that Satan took away from us through Adam's disobedience ... *For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil* (1 John 3:8).

Our relationship with God is this: If we have not been reconciled to God through the shed blood of Jesus Christ, Who became the propitiation for our sin, we are still under the curse of man's disobedience. That is where the majority of mankind is today. It is the curse of man's own disobedience which has brought sin, sickness, sorrow, and destruction, not the love of God.

If we accept the provision that God has made for restoration, we have a right to claim that restored dominion. God's complete love, complete care, complete concern, complete provision, and complete blessing is again our right as children of God. We no longer are under the curse of Adam's disobedience.

Jesus establishes our relationship with God, but we are still left with the vital questions, such as: Since I am a child of God, and since Jesus restores my standing with God, and since God loves me, why? Why do I have this burden? Why must I bear this pain? Why has this desperate situation come into my life? Can there be, is there some hidden reason behind the circumstances of our life that explains the entire matter?

God has taught us in this ministry a very great truth: **ALL TRUTH IS PARALLEL.**

To understand the answer to the question of why the righteous suffer, we are going to use a great scriptural parallel of man who suffered the loss of all things. Though he walked before God as a completely righteous man, his home was destroyed, his children were killed, his wealth disappeared, his health was taken from him, yet a very clear reason emerged through which we may find the answer to the circumstances of our own lives. The man whose life serves as our parallel is Job.

CHAPTER 3

THE SCENE BEHIND THE SEEN

If God's relationship to man is one of love, and if our relationship to God is one of obedience and trust, then as trials, tests, pain, suffering, and tragedy come into our lives, we must look behind the scenes for a hidden reason, something we are not able to see with our natural eyes.

The biblical account of the multifaceted trials of Job not only gives a dramatic answer to our questions but also furnishes us with a parallel that makes that answer relevant to our own ordeals. Job is the perfect example of why the righteous suffer. A look at him as our parallel of truth will unlock one of the greatest mysteries of the world to us.

In the first place, Job was no ordinary man. He was a highly honored individual. He had wealth, prosperity, many possessions, and a fine family. However, the biggest item on the credit ledger of Job's life was that he was a righteous man, a godly man. He feared the Lord.

And the Lord said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil?

Job 1:8

Job was not perfect in the sense of being sinless but in the sense that he was whole, that he was perfect before God. He was an extraordinary individual, and the trials in his life were absolutely extraordinary as well. He was tried through the circumstances of his own life. The circumstances

were peculiarly his, and the trials were peculiarly his. Every trial that you and I have is the same.

WE ARE TRIED THROUGH THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF OUR LIVES

Behind every circumstance of our life, behind every situation, behind every trial, there is a definite, meaningful reason, though often we are not able to see that reason or comprehend it through our natural senses.

Man is not just a simple, single-cell being. He is a highly complex creature. In fact, he is a unique, three-dimensional being, made up of body, soul, and spirit. Man does not live in one world at a time. He lives simultaneously in two worlds. He lives in a *natural* world—a materialistic, human, flesh, bones, and blood world. It is very real. Man also lives in a *spirit* world or *spiritual* world. This is just as real (and in a sense, more real) as the natural world.

Job's trials in the circumstances of his life took place in both of his worlds. He was tried in the natural world, in his physical body, in the material realm; but, his greatest test was his trial in the *spiritual* world, the world of his faith.

Could it be that behind the trials you and I have in the natural world, behind our problems that appear to be problems only in the natural, there could be a very real, deep, spiritual reason?

Job was tested to the full. His very name means “afflicted” or “persecuted one.” The account of his humanly inexplicable trials are related in the scriptures in Job 1:6-19. Job lost his wealth. He lost his property. He lost his children. Losing your family or loved ones is losing something much more precious than silver and gold.

In addition to all of this, Job lost his physical health. When you lose your health, you almost lose your will completely. As long as you are strong physically, you are able to endure many trials, but when you

are down physically, it is hard to rise up and overcome trials, natural or spiritual. Job even lost the help and the sympathy of an understanding wife (Job 2:9).

Job's trials came so fast and so furious that before he could recover from one blow, another was delivered. While one messenger would be giving him a report of some loss, another would arrive with the story of an even greater loss. It was staggering. In the natural, the events would have been completely shattering. But in the midst of it all, there was one thing that Job never lost.

JOB NEVER LOST HIS FAITH IN GOD

Then Job arose, and rent his mantle, and shaved his head, and fell down upon the ground, and worshipped, And said, Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD. In all this Job sinned not, nor charged God foolishly.

Job 1:20-22

Who has not at some time been tempted to look up at God and say, God, why? Why did this business deal go wrong? Why did I lose my job when there are so many others working in this factory who don't do their work half as well as I do who didn't lose their job? Why did You let this happen to me? Why?

It is tremendous to note that in all of his great suffering, in all of his heavy trials, Job never laid one charge against God. Stripped of his family, stripped of his health, covered with boils, sick and deteriorated, his property all gone, his wife turned against him, his sons, daughters, and many of his servants killed, not one time did Job lose the most precious thing in all the world—his faith in God.

That is why I ask you this question. Could it be that behind every *natural* problem we face there is a deeper, *spiritual* meaning that is even

more related to the problem than anything we are able to see on the surface? Could there be a spiritual reason far greater than we dream exists because our natural eyes are so obscured with our natural problems?

A godly man named Payson once was going through such tremendous bodily afflictions that even his friends wondered why all of this was happening to him. They asked him, “Can you, in the midst of all of this suffering, see any particular reason God would deal with you like this?” “No,” Payson replied, “I don’t. I don’t see one single reason.” Then, without hesitation, he declared, “But I am as satisfied as if I could see ten thousand reasons.” Then he revealed the real reason behind his patience and trust. “God’s Will,” he explained, “is the very perfection of all reason.”

Payson had learned something that alone would be worth the reading of this book. God’s Will is the very perfecting of all of our reasoning power. It is perfection in our lives. The Will of God. Job said, *Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him ...* (Job 13:15). When Job made that declaration, he did it in trust. He still did not see the real scene that was taking place, the conversation going on between God and Satan.

Job did, however, know that this life consists of more than what we see or what we possess. He had confidence in God. He knew God well enough that he was willing to place this seen life, these natural circumstances, completely in the hands of his heavenly Father. He knew it would come out all right, he just didn’t know when, *For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth:* (Job 19:25).

Job was in great anguish. His trial was heavy. His friends were anything but encouraging. Still, Job knew that even if his eye never saw the truth, that God’s eye did. I can’t see God, he confessed at one point. I can’t feel Him, but it’s all right. *But he knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold* (Job 23:10).

Job was a way maker for us. At the time, he did not see the reasons behind his harassment by Satan. But it has pleased God to lift the veil

through the scriptures and let us see just what was going on in the heavenlies. Job was having his battles in the natural, but it was really a spiritual battle. There was plenty going on behind the scenes—a direct confrontation between God and Satan with Job as the test case.

God lets us see behind the scenes of this confrontation in the Book of Job. Then, lest we miss the point of what He has shown us, the Holy Spirit relates the story to our own circumstances through James 5:10-11:

Take, my brethren, the prophets, who have spoken in the name of the Lord, for an example of suffering affliction, and of patience. Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy.

In permitting us to see behind the scene of Job's trials, is God opening up to us a look behind the scenes at His Will for us? Is he permitting you to see His Will for your circumstances? Is the situation you are now in, your present circumstances, the Will of God? Can we know what the Will of God for us is?

CHAPTER 4

IS IT GOD'S WILL FOR ME TO SUFFER?

The Will of God! What is God's Will for me? Is it His Will for me to be sick? Is it His Will for me to suffer? Is it His Will for my children to break my heart? For me to lose my job? The devil is not going to like my telling you this, but I am going to tell you anyway. That sickness, that problem, that affliction, that trial, that defeat in your life is not God's Will for you! I know that they are not God's Will for you, because God has made it so plain in His Word exactly what His Will is.

This is God's Will for your life. *Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth* (3 John 2). A person's will cannot be changed after that person is dead. Jesus Christ came into the world for a purpose—to defeat and to destroy the works of the devil ... *For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil* (1 John 3:8). ... *I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly* (John 10:10).

Jesus came to pay the price to deliver us from sin and from sickness. No person, no doctrine, no denomination, no atheist, nothing can change His Will. It has been bought, and it has been paid for. That is why Jesus from the Cross could declare, ... *It is finished* ... (John 19:30).

The sickness in the life of Job was not the Will of God. The financial ruin in the life of Job was not the Will of God. The loss of his family in the life of Job was not the Will of God. The bitter domestic situation in the life of Job was not the Will of God. The accusations of his friends in

the life of Job was not the Will of God. The self-accusation in the life of Job was not the Will of God.

God created man in perfect health. There was no cancer, no tuberculosis, no arthritis, no deafness, and no infirmity at all. It is God's Will for man to be perfect in mind, body, soul, and spirit. Everything that God had created and put in the Garden of Eden was good. Sickness was one of those things! To those under God's direct care and provision, He consistently promises healing and health. David sang of it.

*BLESS the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name.
Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: Who forgiveth all
thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases;*

Psalms 103:1-3

Isaiah foresaw Christ as the instrument of the restoration: *But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him: and with his stripes we are healed* (Isaiah 53:5).

Health and prosperity were Israel's normal state, despite long marches and primitive conditions during their wilderness journey. *He brought them forth also with silver and gold: and there was not one feeble person among their tribes* (Psalms 105:37).

Even old age could not dim the advantages for Caleb when, at 85 years of age, his testimony was:

And now, behold, the LORD hath kept me alive, as he said, these forty and five years, even since the LORD spake this word unto Moses, while the children of Israel wandered in the wilderness: and now, lo, I am this day fourscore and five years old. As yet I am as strong this day as I was in the day that Moses sent me: as my strength was then, even so is my strength now, for war, both to go out, and to come in.

Joshua 14:10-11

Moses' medical record at 120 years of age is even more impressive: *And Moses was an hundred and twenty years old when he died: his eye was not dim, nor his natural force abated* (Deuteronomy 34:7).

No, God never intended for man to know sickness. God also never meant for man to know poverty. *Thou openest thine hand, and satisfiest the desire of every living thing* (Psalms 145:16).

His covenant promise with Israel was that they would never need to borrow, but they would have enough to lend to others.

The Lord shall open unto thee his good treasure, the heaven to give the rain unto thy land in his season, and to bless all the work of thine hand: and thou shalt lend unto many nations, and thou shalt not borrow.

Deuteronomy 28:12

David's testimony concerning God's provision for His own was this: *I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread* (Psalms 37:25). It was, and is, God's delight to provide for His people. It is so important that we know the perfect Will of God.

The Church today gets confused about the Will of God. Because of this confusion, there is much needless suffering and acceptance of things that Satan sends our way. Neither can we pray the prayer of faith for our needs if we do not have the assurance of the known Will of God for our life! How heartbreaking it is to see godly men and women, righteous people, sit back and accept sickness, accept affliction, accept suffering, with the pitiful excuse that, well, this must be God's Will for me. It is very important for us to understand that our sickness and affliction does not glorify God. Neither is it His Will for us—EVER!

It is so NOT his Will for us that He sent His Son to suffer and pay the price for Adam's transgression, to completely *undo* what Adam had done. Adam's act of disobedience had opened the door to sin and sickness. Jesus, in His suffering, Himself bore the results of that transgression and that disobedience so that we never need to bear it!

But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed (Isaiah 53:5), and also ... *Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses* (Matthew 8:17). Jesus Himself suffered for us. That is how much it is God's Will for us to be well and whole and strong! It is very important for us to understand this and not let those sufferings be in vain!

God did not send Job's trials or Job's sufferings. He did not send Job's financial disaster. He did not destroy his family. God, in His divine Will for Job's life, had never predestined these sufferings for Job. Neither was it God Who sent that affliction or that persecution or that torment into YOUR life! He did not send that cancer, that disease, that sickness, that poverty, or that problem. I know that God did not send them, because He cannot do anything that is contrary to His Word or His Will.

This is what He has said, ... *I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly* (John 10:10), and *According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:* (2 Peter 1:3). God cannot operate contrary to His Word.

WHEN THE REAL WILL OF GOD IS KNOWN, IT BECOMES OUR REASONING POWER

We can know for certain what God wants to do in and for our life and our circumstances. God did not send Job's afflictions. There was a *spiritual reason* behind what people were able to see on the surface. Yes, God permitted these afflictions. He *permitted* them **for a reason**. Permissively, God delivered Job into the hands of Satan.

Satan is the accuser of the brethren (Revelation 12:10). He loves to catch God's people in some error or misdeed so that he can use it to accuse God. Even when there has been no error or misdeed, or when something has taken place but has been completely forgiven, Satan is still

the accuser. He uses every tactic he can to bring condemnation or guilt or accusation against God's people.

In Job's case, completely unbeknownst to Job, God was holding him up before Satan as an example of a good man, a just man. God literally was bragging about Job!

And the LORD said unto Satan, Hast thou considered Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil?

Job 1:8

SATAN ACCUSED GOD!

Satan's answer to this was that Job only served God because of what Job could get out of God. He claimed that if Job's blessings were to be taken away, Job no longer would love or serve God.

Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, Doth Job fear God for nought? Hast not thou made an hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side? thou hast blessed the work of his hands, and his substance is increased in the land. But put forth thine hand now, and touch all that he hath, and he will curse thee to thy face. And the LORD said unto Satan, Behold, all that he hath is in thy power; only upon himself put not forth thine hand. So Satan went forth from the presence of the LORD.

Job 1:9-12

God loved Job. It was His plan and His desire to bless Job, to keep him, to prosper him. However, in order to prove what was in Job's heart, God *permitted* trials, tests, and reverses to come into Job's life at the hand of Satan.

The devil cannot get at God directly, for God is invincible and almighty. The *only* way that Satan can get at God is through us. If he can accuse us through our circumstances, in effect he is also accusing

God. That is why he waits to point his finger of accusation at us in our circumstances. How he wants to criticize our reaction to God's Word. How he loves to see us fail to claim God's promises or live up to God's standards. He has access to God, and he loves to say to Him, see, they say they are Christians, but just look at them! Look how they are living! Look, they don't believe Your Word, etc.

One of my associates was praying in a seminar I conducted some time ago, and he was heard to address Satan vehemently, and say emphatically, "Satan, you don't have a single argument!" He was right. Satan has no valid argument at all. However, he tries to bluff and intimidate God's people to the point where they just let him get away with it. Thank God for men and women who will hang fast to every promise of God, who will trust Him in every circumstance, and who will order their life in complete obedience to God in all things.

God permitted Satan to test Job in the circumstances of his life, certain that Job would pass the test! *And the LORD said unto Satan, Behold, all that he hath is in thy power; only upon himself put not forth thine hand. So Satan went forth from the presence of the LORD* (Job 1:12).

Within a very short interval, Job was robbed of his oxen, his asses, and his camels. His servants were killed. His sheep were burned up. His children were wiped out by a tornado. Even under these conditions, Job continued to worship God.

Then Job arose, and rent his mantle, and shaved his head, and fell down upon the ground, and worshipped, And said, Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD. In all this Job sinned not, nor charged God foolishly.

Job 1:20-22

Having wrought all this destruction, Satan still was not satisfied. He continued to accuse God through Job:

And Satan answered the LORD, and said, Skin for skin, yea, all that a man hath will he give for his life. But put forth thine hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse thee to thy face.

Job 2:4-5

God permitted an increased test:

And the LORD said unto Satan, Behold, he is in thine hand; but save his life. So went Satan forth from the presence of the LORD, and smote Job with sore boils from the sole of his foot unto his crown.

Job 2:6-7

As a further distress, Job's wife no longer understood or comforted him. She came to him with a very negative suggestion ... *curse God, and die*, was what she counseled Job to do (Job 2:9).

Just look at all of these adverse conditions and circumstances that had come into Job's life. Yet, in every one of them, it was Satan who brought the problem. It was Satan who brought the sickness, the pain, and the suffering—NOT GOD!

God permitted severe trials to touch Job's life for a specific and spiritual reason. But in each instance, it was Satan, not God, who brought the suffering and the tragedy.

GOD IS TOTALLY GOOD!

Jesus said, ... *I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly* (John 10:10). God's Will is not for us to suffer. When we know that that is His Will, it becomes our reasoning power to bring the circumstances of our life into proper spiritual perspective.

There were four very basic questions being answered in the circumstances of Job's life. The answers to these questions will bring our own circumstances into clearer perspective and are so needful that I am going to devote a full chapter to each of these questions. They are:

1. Can a person love God with an absolute, pure love, or does mankind love God only for an ulterior motive?
2. Is anyone but God in absolute, total control of the circumstances of your life?
3. Are man's outward appearances the criteria of his true spiritual character?
4. Can man's wisdom understand God's work?

When we have the answers to these questions, we will have a greater understanding of God's Will for us and a greater grasp on spiritual reasoning power to understand why the righteous suffer

CHAPTER 5

IS YOUR LOVE FOR GOD BASED ON AN ULTERIOR MOTIVE?

There are many problem questions that are related to why the righteous suffer. Four of them especially are very basic to the solution of this age-old question. Each will be discussed separately in the next four chapters of this book and all are closely interrelated. As we deal with each of these four questions, we are going to understand a great deal more of the depth behind the scenes in spiritual relationships that exists in the trials, problems, and circumstances we face on a day-to-day basis. These questions are applicable not only to Job's life and circumstances, but they are very practical and applicable to all of our lives.

QUESTION NUMBER 1: Can a person love God with an absolute, pure love, or does mankind love God with an ulterior motive?

Do we love God because of what we can get out of Him? For what He will do for us? So that we may receive His blessings and benefits? Or do we love Him for Who He is, because He is God? Satan's attack at God through Job began with an attack upon the integrity of Job's love for God. He claimed that Job loved God only for God's blessings and protection. Satan's accusation was: God, Job only loves You for what You do for

him. Take away that hedge You have around him. Let him taste a little adversity. You will find out soon enough how much he loves You. He will turn around from worshipping You, and instead will curse You. Just take away some of his possessions and the protection he enjoys. You will see.

We often have thought about the devil making accusations at God through the negative aspects of people's lives and circumstances, through their sufferings and trials, but certainly he is not limited to that. He also makes accusations at God through the positive circumstances of people's lives. That well may have been the reasoning behind Solomon's prayer of Proverbs 30:8-9, which says:

... give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with food convenient for me: Lest I be full, and deny thee, and say, Who is the LORD? or lest I be poor, and steal, and take the name of my God in vain.

When there is no sickness, no problem, no need, and when everything is going well in the family, it is possible for Satan to use the positive aspects of our circumstances to accuse God. That is what he did in Job's case.

Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, Doth Job fear God for nought? Hast not thou made an hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side? thou hast blessed the work of his hands, and his substance is increased in the land. But put forth thine hand now, and touch all that he hath, and he will curse thee to thy face.

Job 1:9-11

God did give Satan permission to touch Job's goods but only within pre-set bounds.

Note two very important points here:

1. Job belonged to God, and Satan could not touch Job's life in any way without the express permission of God; and
2. Even with that permission, Satan could go only as far as God said and no farther!

God allowed Satan to take Job's worldly possessions and also his children, whom Job loved very much. Satan had said that without these possessions Job would curse God to His face. The implication was that Job's love for God was totally mercenary, that it was for the gifts alone, not for the Giver. Was Satan's accusation about Job true? Emphatically not! The first thing Job did in the face of this great loss was to worship God!

Then Job arose, and rent his mantle, and shaved his head, and fell down upon the ground, and worshipped, And said, Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD. In all this Job sinned not, nor charged God foolishly.

Job 1:20-22

Satan still was not satisfied. He is persistent and determined in his assaults against God's elect. If he cannot find a weak spot in one place, he will look for another. That is why God's Word gives us the instruction to keep ourselves perfected in Christ. *Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil* (Ephesians 6:11).

Satan penetrated Job's circumstances, but he never for one minute penetrated Job's spiritual armor, though he continued to try. After his initial failure, he was back again. You're still not protecting Job, he accused God. If You touch his health, let him suffer in his physical body, then surely he will curse You. *But put forth thine hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse thee to thy face* (Job 2:5).

Satan tells God to use **His** hand to bring the sorrow, but it is **not** God's hand that brings the pain. Whose hand is it?

And the LORD said unto Satan, Behold, he is in thine hand; but save his life. So went Satan forth from the presence of the LORD, and smote Job with sore boils from the sole of his foot unto his crown.

Job 2:6-7

It was Satan who brought the affliction, not God. Again, God **limited** Satan's ability to touch Job. He said, ... *but save his life*. Job was very precious, very loved of God in the midst of this fiery trial. God had special concern for His servant during this time of affliction.

Now let us take a look at the condition of Job. He had no material blessings left. His children were dead. There was no soundness in his body. Every test that Satan had proposed had come upon him. Did he curse God as Satan had said he would? Did he stop loving and worshiping God? Was his love materialistic or mercenary? No! Job's love, faith, and trust shone more brightly than ever in the flames of adversity. God's trust and faith in Job was completely vindicated as Job emphatically reiterated his faith in God. *Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him ...* (Job 13:15).

Now, what about us? Do we love God only for what He has given us? What about our current trial? Did it cause us to stop loving God? Did it cause God to stop loving us? God loves you just as much in the midst of the furnace as He does when you walk in total health and prosperity. What about the reverse? Do we love God just as much when circumstances seem to be adverse as when everything is going well?

A minister came one day to what he thought was the lowest point in his life. Several crises struck at once. He faced financial ruin and saw his house and his car slipping away. He had differences with his closest friend, who had begun to compromise his own life. Because of the minister's standards, he saw a friendship of long standing disintegrating. His past life (before he had been saved) seemed bound to overtake him. He had been saved from very great sin and felt that his reputation and his influence with his congregation was severely threatened.

An enemy threatened to come into his Sunday morning service and serve legal papers on him in the presence of his congregation. The minister felt that surely he should resign rather than bring such disruption and disgrace upon the church. With all of these trials hanging heavily upon his heart, this man knelt before God in the greatest dedication he

had ever known. “God, I belong to You,” he said. “I’m Yours. If it is Your Will for me to be stood on a street corner, stripped, spit upon, laughed at, or even set on fire, that’s Your business. I’m in Your hands.” He arose from his knees with the greatest inner peace he had every known. He has testified many times over the years, “I thought that was the *lowest* point of my life, but it was really the very *highest* point.”

The incident showed the minister what was in his own heart. That revelation became a source of spiritual confidence throughout his life. He did not love God for ulterior motives. He did not love the gifts above the Giver. He loved God for Who He is.

It is possible to love God with no ulterior motive. When we do, and **know** that we do, we are well on the way to great victories over every trial that comes. We are saying, as Job did, my love for You, God, is not based on any of these possessions that have been taken from me. I stand stripped of all before You, and I love You, God. Paul had this same type of commitment whereby he was able to write:

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our LORD.

Romans 8:35-39

Job knew that, come what may, there was Someone in utter control of his life and his circumstances and that **nothing** could come between him and God. That brings us to the second big question regarding our circumstances. No matter what happens, can we know that God is in total control?

Questions on Chapter Five:

1. How does Satan attack God?
2. What did Satan claim were Job's reasons for serving God?
3. Does Satan attack us through positive things in our lives or through negative things?
4. What did Satan have to get from God before he could touch Job?
5. Was it God Who sent the tragedies on Job?
6. How far could Satan go in sending trials on Job?

CHAPTER 6

IS GOD IN TOTAL CONTROL?

QUESTION NUMBER 2: Is anyone but God in absolute, total control of the circumstances of your life or, for that matter, the circumstances of the entire universe?

With Satan's attacks coming from so many different directions—finances, health, family problems, etc.—and with no one immune to such attacks, we must know the answer to this question in regard to our own personal circumstances.

Is God in total control of the circumstances of my life? Or is there some other power, bigger and greater than God, in control? Is there some ability God has no control over that can bring circumstances into my life? When you have lost your mate, when your little baby dies, when physical infirmity comes, when financial reverses hit, whatever the test or whatever the storm, is God in absolute control of every circumstance of your life?

Before we can come to the perfect realization of the Will of God for us—His perfect Will, not His permissive Will—we need to have the sure answer to this question. When we are going through a test or trial, can we know whether that test is God's perfect Will for us or not? I believe we can. Can we know with absolute certainty why righteous people have problems, needs, and suffering? I believe we can. However, in order to arrive at those answers, we must come to the understanding and knowledge of Who is in actual control of the circumstances of our lives.

Are our circumstances, needs, and conditions the project of happenstance? Do the good things merely happen by accident? Do our problems arise by chance? Or is there truly a power and a force behind the scenes that is in absolute and total control? Job thought so. Job could not, with his natural eye, see behind the scene. Neither can we with our natural vision.

Job did not with his natural eye see Satan go before God to ask God's permission before he could ever touch Job's life. Job did not hear with his natural ear that God absolutely limited the kind and the extent of the test that Satan could put on him. But with the eye of faith, Job saw that God was in control. With the ear of faith, he heard all of God's precious promises. He couldn't feel God, but he knew God. He had a deep inner knowing that, as children of God, we can possess in our heart at all times. Though he was unaware of the spiritual battle raging about him, Job's faith in God was strong and secure. His trusting declaration was this:

Behold, I go forward, but he is not there; and backward, but I cannot perceive him: On the left hand, where he doth work, but I cannot behold him: he hideth himself on the right hand, that I cannot see him: But he knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold.

Job 23:8-10

Job had spiritual confidence that he would come through this trial. His faith was very secure that God was in total control. **WHEN THE BATTLE IS OVER, I WILL WIN! I WILL COME FORTH AS PURE GOLD!**

I often say I would not mind getting into the boxing ring with Cassius Clay (a.k.a. "Mohammed Ali"), George Foreman, or Joe Frazier if I knew how I would come out, if I knew I would win. The reason I do not get in the ring with any of these boxers is that I know the bloody mess I would come out as.

Satan is one enemy we can face and know every time how we are going to come out and know that when the battle is over, we will be the winner! Satan is a defeated foe. We can know (just as securely as Job did) that God is in absolute, total control of every circumstance and condition in our life.

There is no such thing as an accident or by chance in the lives of God's children. *The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD ...* (Psalms 37:23). *In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths* (Proverbs 3:6).

Jesus assured us that God is in such total control of everything in the entire world that He knows when a sparrow falls to the earth. Even the very hairs of our head are numbered! God permits tests and trials to enter our life, but they can only go so far, and even then, **GOD IS IN TOTAL CONTROL!**

Questions on Chapter Six:

1. Can we know God's perfect will for our life?
2. Who was in total control of everything that entered Job's life?
3. Does anyone or anything besides God have control over the circumstances of your life?
4. Do things happen to you by accident or by chance?

CHAPTER 7

ARE OUTWARD APPEARANCES THE CRITERIA OF TRUE SPIRITUAL CHARACTER?

QUESTION NUMBER 3: Are man's outward appearances, his outward circumstances that we see with the natural eye, any criteria of the true spiritual character of the individual before God?

This is one of the most important questions that Christians have to face. People don't judge us by what they can't see. They judge us by what they see on the outside, the circumstances of our life, the problems we go through, whether it looks as if we have a victorious or prosperous life ... *man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart* (1 Samuel 16:7). People don't try to look through the circumstances of our life to see the deeper, more important meanings that show what a person really is. They judge us by our outward appearances. We are all prone to judge people and circumstances by what we see with the natural eye. It's easy to say, "Don't look at man," but we all do.

Suppose we know someone whose world seemingly begins to come apart. He has trouble in his home. His son becomes involved with drugs. Disaster drains off all of his finances. The natural man is prone to say, well, there must be something wrong with Brother Jones' life. God is

chastising him for something. He must have some hidden sin; otherwise, God would not have permitted these circumstances. The natural man says, I wonder what Sister Smith did that she should be reaping such heartache. If she was really living for God, she wouldn't be in such a desperate situation.

Suppose you had lived in Job's day and had seen all of the tragedies that fell upon his life all at once. Looking at him with the natural eye, weighing the circumstances with the natural mind, could you look at Job sitting there, covered with boils, a broken man who had been scorned by his friends and neighbors, and say, here's a man walking with God? Could you say, here is a man who is just and perfect before God, or here is a man so upright that God takes great pleasure and delight in him?

Looking at Job's circumstances, how would you have judged his true spiritual character? Would your evaluation be the same as that of Job's so-called friends? One of his friends had this to say to Job: *If thou wert pure and upright; surely now he [God] would awake for thee, and make the habitation of thy righteousness prosperous* (Job 8:6). Another one condemned him with these words: ... *Know therefore that God exacteth of thee less than thine iniquity deserveth* (Job 11:6).

They all thought that Job had some horrible sin in his life that had caused these things to come upon him. All the time, the testimony of God concerning Job was this:

And the LORD said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil?

Job 1:8

GOD WAS BRAGGING ON JOB!

The sad part was that Job began condemning **himself** without a cause. At one point during his severe testing, he cried out to God: *And why*

dost thou not pardon my transgression, and take away mine iniquity?... (Job 7:21). I call this “The Satan trap.” It is a very cunning trap of Satan to bring false condemnation upon the child of God. If we know that God is in absolute control, then we are not going to condemn ourselves. If we have absolute confidence in God, the result is that we are going to have absolute confidence in ourselves. We will not examine and re-examine our own life in the light of our circumstances. That is a weakening experience.

When we know, when there is a deep inner knowing within ourselves that our relationship is right with God, we understand that God is in control and that the things we are suffering are not criteria of our true spiritual character. Sickness, material need, or testing may come, but we will not throw up our hands and begin to accuse ourselves spiritually. This is the trap of the enemy to get us to develop guilt complexes and guilt relationships.

If we end up accusing ourselves, the net result is that we are going to end up accusing God. This was the trap Satan set for Job, and it actually started to work. Satan deceived Job into accusing himself. Had it gone on a little further, who knows if Satan would have succeeded in getting Job to accuse God.

I hate the devil, and I hate his power. For too long Satan has come into the minds and the spirits of the children of God and has brought confusion, defeat, and destruction. There was no evil in Job. God said that there was none. He was not being punished by God for some transgression. His test was not a statement of his spiritual condition before or during that test. Job’s outward circumstances were not an indication of the superior spirituality which he actually possessed.

The suffering in the life of a Christian is not retributive. We need to stop saying to ourselves that God is punishing us for things that we have done in our lives. The world may say that. The world feeds on the negatives and the offscouring of the world. The secular world relishes hearing about troubles in the lives of God’s outstanding men and women.

If the worldly media can find the faintest negative anywhere, that seems to be where they put the major emphasis, regardless of how many positives might be present.

One prominent publisher, now dead, routinely gave his reporters bonuses if they could uncover a scandalous story involving a preacher. Great pains sometimes are taken by the world to discredit ministers and other leaders. Unfortunately, such criticism is not only in the secular world. Too often it is in the church world. That is why God so strongly urges in His Word: *JUDGE not, that ye be not judged. For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again* (Matthew 7:1-2). *Who art thou that judgest another man's servant? to his own master he standeth or falleth. Yea, he shall be holden up: for God is able to make him stand* (Romans 14:4).

Spirituality cannot be judged by some outside occurrence, even in our own eyes. We should never let circumstances bring unreasonable condemnation upon us in our own eyes or make us feel guilty when we are not guilty. If we have made everything right with God, if we have committed all to Him, then: *THERE is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit* (Romans 8:1).

Let us never judge our own spiritual condition by our outside circumstances. Circumstances are *not* the criteria for a person's true spiritual character, neither your own nor that of someone else.

Questions on Chapter Seven:

1. What do other people judge us by?
2. Could a man who was really walking with God lose everything and end up covered with boils, as Job did?
3. If we see a person who seems to be having much bad luck, can we assume he is not right with God?

4. Should we accuse or condemn ourselves when we have trials and tests?
5. Do trials show that we are being punished by God for something we did?

CHAPTER 8

CAN MAN'S WISDOM UNDERSTAND GOD'S WORK?

QUESTION NUMBER 4: Can man—by his wisdom—rightly comprehend, judge, or even understand the workings and providence of God in a human life?

Those who had looked at Job's circumstances tried to use them to reason out Job's life. They misjudged him completely. They completely misunderstood. Your closest friends, your children, your husband, your wife, your minister, may not understand when you are going through your darkest moments. Many will point a finger at you and blame you for the trials which have come upon you. You, perhaps, will begin to blame yourself and judge yourself in the belief that God is judging you.

There is one very important thing that I want to impress upon you again, and that is that the suffering in the life of a Christian is not retributive. Stop saying to yourself that God is punishing you for things that you have done in your life. You and I need to understand that suffering and trials in the lives of Christians do not come because of something they have done or something they have not done. *THERE is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus ...* (Romans 8:1).

No one, not any of the devils in hell, can point a finger at a child of God. I tell you this in the Name of Jesus.

A friend of mine, a well-known evangelist, went to a certain country to conduct a crusade. The *religious* people of that country, people who were into witchcraft and idolatry, came out in force. They tore the evangelist's platform down. The minister barely escaped with his life. Back in the United States, officials and leaders in several large denominations criticized the evangelist severely. They said, "If he had been in the Will of God when he went there, none of that would have happened to him."

In my own ministry, I know what it is to walk into a country and face machine guns. In Dar es Salaam, in Tanzania, on the first night of my last meeting there, I walked into the grounds to find that there were 50,000 people present, and the militia was there to stop me from preaching. It is quite an experience to face a half-track army vehicle with five or six men pointing machine guns at you. Someone might have thought Brother Cerullo must be out of God's Will, or those soldiers wouldn't be there, but I knew it was God's Will for me to be there, no matter what circumstances I had to face.

In 60 years of ministering in the nations of the world, I have faced every kind of trial you can imagine. God was always in control. Look at what the apostle Paul suffered. He tells about it in 2 Corinthians 11:23: *Are they ministers of Christ? (I speak as a fool) I am more; in labours more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequent ...*

Listen, Paul, you had better not say that. Those things will go against you not for you. People might think you were out of the Will of God to suffer all of those things.

... in deaths oft. Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one. Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep; In journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen,

in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness.

2 Corinthians 11:23-27

Under every one of these trying conditions, this man was able to exclaim, *Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?* ... (Romans 8:35). Oh, brother, NOTHING! **Nothing** is able to separate us from the love of Christ ... *we are more than conquerors through him that loved us* (Romans 8:37). Paul calls these things a “light affliction.” *For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory;* (2 Corinthians 4:17).

Wait a minute, Paul. You sure have a strong imagination. Beaten with rods three times, shipwrecked three times, in prisons, fastings, cold and naked, and you call these things a *light affliction*? Oh, yes, he says. These light afflictions are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us!

There was another trial Paul told of having. He had a “thorn in the flesh.” *And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh ...* (2 Corinthians 12:7). Paul’s thorn in the flesh was not a physical sickness; it was a spiritual problem. Space does not permit us to discuss this thorn in the flesh in depth at this time, but it involves a spiritual struggle. Paul said:

For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

2 Corinthians 12:8-9

There was a spiritual reason behind everything that Paul went through. IF WE COULD ONLY SEE AS GOD SEES! There is only one way that the devil can get at God. Lucifer tried to get at God when

he lifted himself up and led a revolution in the heavens. That is how he became Satan, the devil, the adversary. As Lucifer, he was a high, bright being in the angelic world of God, but he became Satan, the adversary, the accuser. There is no way that Satan can get at God directly, for God is invincible, impregnable. Satan tried to overthrow God in heaven, but God defeated him and cast him out of heaven.

There is only one way that the devil can ever get at God, and that is through you or me. In doing so, he has to attack us in the circumstances of our lives. He tries to get at God, at God's Word, at God's promises and provisions, through the circumstances of our lives. He tried to get at God through Paul and his inability to cope with this thorn. He tried to get at God through Job and make Job curse God. He tries to get at God through the circumstances of *your* life.

For Satan to curse God would be meaningless, but if Job cursed God, then the devil would have gotten at God. If you or I curse in our trials, blame Him, or accuse Him, it is a victory for Satan! This is just what Satan wants.

Satan's accusation against Job was:

... Doth Job fear God for nought? Hast not thou made an hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side? thou hast blessed the work of his hands, and his substance is increased in the land.

Job 1:9-10

Job loves You, God, only because of an ulterior motive. Job loves You because You have blessed him. Take your blessing from him, and see if he will love You. Satan struck at the heart of God, but he did it through Job. He cannot get at God any other way than through His children.

Satan accuses God by saying: Who are You? You think those are Your followers? You think that is Your Church? You think those are Christians? They love You only out of a mercenary love. Try them. See how much they will love You. Put them in prison. See how much they will love You.

Let them be stoned. See how much they will love You. Burn them at the stake. See how much they will love You. Let that man lose his job. See how much he will love You. Let that woman get sick. See how much she will love You. Let that person get falsely accused of something. See how they will love You. Let that marriage partner be unfaithful. See how the other mate will love You. Let that little child die. See how the mother and father will love You. They won't love You at all, God. They will turn on you, blame You. Just try it and see.

That's Satan's strategy. He urges God to let us be tried, then he uses the trial to try to get us to doubt God's love for us.

Charles Spurgeon, a tremendous theologian whom God raised up in England, approached the house of a friend and noticed a weather vane on top of the house with the inscription "God is Love" on it. Spurgeon's righteous indignation rose up at that. As soon as he saw his friend, he said, "What do you mean by putting the words 'God is Love' on a weather vane that goes around and around? Are you trying to tell everyone that God's love is as changeable as the wind?" The man looked Spurgeon in the eye and said, "No, sir. I'm trying to tell people that **God is love, no matter which way the wind blows.**"

Can you hear Job crying out to God, *Though he [God] slay me, yet will I trust in him ...* (Job 13:15).

We may not always understand why God permits something or why we must go through a trial or why or how something could happen to us or a loved one if the Lord loves us. But we can always understand that God is love, no matter which way the wind turns.

If you and I could only see as God sees, we would learn never to question Him. That is why I pray that God will anoint our eyes with spiritual eye salve, that every spiritual cataract will be torn away, so that we can see the circumstances of our lives as God sees them. Man's natural vision, his natural wisdom, can never really understand the working of

God in a human life. Don't even try. Just understand, as Spurgeon's friend did, that God is love, no matter which way the wind blows.

Understand, as Job did, that ... *he knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold* (Job 23:10). When you understand that, you have real wisdom. When you realize that there is a spiritual reason at the root of your trial, your suffering, your need, you can reason why the righteous suffer, why problems and circumstances beyond your control come into your life. Then you are well on your way to understanding what is going on behind the scenes of your own life.

Questions on Chapter Eight:

1. Which of Job's friends understood what Job was going through?
2. Who has a right to point their finger and accuse a child of God?
3. If a preacher, or one of God's precious children, has persecution or trials, can we assume he or she is out of the Will of God?
4. What is able to separate us from the love of Christ?
5. What would happen in our life if we could see as God sees?

CHAPTER 9

WHAT IN THE WORLD IS GOING ON?

When trials and disasters and suffering and pain begin to buffet the child of God, often this is the cry of the wounded heart: Oh, Lord! What in the world is going on!

For the child of God, the question more properly should be: What in the **spiritual** world is going on?

Behind every earthly trial, there is a spiritual reason that man can never see with the natural eye. It takes the revelation of God to tear the veil away so that we can see the real root, the real cause, the real answer. This was shown to me clearly when I was in India in 1970. I was in a spiritual battle there, and I knew it. You could feel the oppression of the enemy strongly in that country.

Before the crusade began, I shut myself in my hotel room and travailed in prayer before God. As God showed me each evil spirit so strongly present in that area of the world, I would call out that spirit in the Name of Jesus and bind it. *Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven* (Matthew 18:18).

I called out the spirits of sin, the spirits of sickness, the spirits of religion, the spirits of false cults, the spirits of idolatry, and on and on and on. This went on for hours. Finally, victory came. I felt the release in my soul, and I knew everything was going to be all right. We went through the entire campaign in India without one problem.

That was India, and that was a spiritual problem, but something God showed me during this time changed my ministry and better equipped me for bringing the message of the New Anointing to North America. I tell this experience in total detail in my book, The New Anointing.

What God showed me was that everywhere battles are fought here at home, they are the same type as those on the heathen missionary fields of the world. They are *spiritual* battles. The Lord said to me, “Son, you must realize that in the United States of America, Canada, Europe, etc., you are not dealing just with ideologies. You are not dealing with rebellious youth who are disenchanted with the hypocrisy of their parents. You are not dealing with kids who are trying to tear down the establishment. You are not dealing just with the drug culture. If you will go deep down to the root of the problem, you will find that you are in a *spiritual* battle.

Here in America we had been fighting against the things we saw with our natural eyes. God showed me that behind the scenes there was a different reason which we did not see.

The same thing is true in our individual lives. The battles we have are not with what we can see with our natural eyes. They are with what is taking place behind the natural scenes. That is why we must learn to trust God’s judgment, His leading, and His providence in a greater way. God sees everything that is happening on both sides of the scene. He knows every reason. He holds every answer. If we could only see as God sees, then we would never have a question mark in our heart, only an AMEN!

A great illustration of this is the true story of a farmer who attended one of Dr. Charles Price’s crusades. Dr. Price was a great man whom God raised up in this country. He had a tremendous healing ministry. On one occasion, a huge tabernacle was constructed in a Canadian city for a mid-winter crusade. A farmer—who came into town for provisions—came into one of the services, seemingly “by accident.” I am a great believer that there is no such thing as a spiritual accident or a chance happening. The Holy Spirit led that man into that meeting.

This farmer gave his life to Jesus and was saved and was so happy that he stayed over for the meeting the next night, then the next. He completely forgot about the provisions he was supposed to take home to his wife and family until a snow storm blew up. Then it dawned on the farmer that he had better take the groceries, coal, and kerosene home. He climbed into his old Model T Ford and began chugging away.

As he drove, the blizzard raged even more fiercely. The wind was so strong and the snow so blinding that he could hardly see where he was going. He slowed his speed until he was barely inching along the road. Suddenly, the Model T stopped completely. The first thought the man had was, oh, God, why did You let this happen? He dropped his head on the steering wheel and said, “Oh, Lord, what a fool I’ve been! My wife is at home, and I should have been there three days ago with these provisions. My family will be low on food, coal, and oil. My wife and children will freeze to death in this blizzard. Now my car has stopped! Oh, God, WHY? Why did You let this happen to me? What have I done to deserve this? I just gave my life to You. I just became a Christian. Why is this happening?”

The man had hardly uttered these words when he heard a locomotive roar by, not even 20 feet in front of where his car had stopped. He had been unable to see the railway crossing lights because of the blinding snow storm. If the car had not gone dead, he would have been on the railroad tracks when the train came by. It would have smashed his car to pieces and killed him. He *never* would have gotten home with the provisions. After the locomotive passed, the man noticed that the ignition key of his car was in the “off” position. He switched it back on, pressed the starter, and the car started right up. All that was wrong with the car was that the switch had been turned off.

A few days later, the man returned to town to tell his story to Dr. Price. This time it wasn’t God the man questioned. Now he had a question for Dr. Price. “There’s only one thing I want to ask you,” he said. “Who turned that ignition key off?” God had seen the train coming and had

spared the man's life. If the man had seen as God saw, he would not have questioned at all when that engine went dead. He would have been praising and thanking God right in the middle of that snow storm.

If we could look behind the scenes and see as God sees, we would never question God's love for us. We would never question Who is in absolute and complete control of all circumstances and all situations. We would never question the protection of God or the circumstances permitted to enter into our lives.

If Job had only seen, he would have seen that something was going on that he had not realized, something beyond what he saw in the natural, beyond the tragic reports the messengers brought him, beyond the pain in his body and in his heart. *Something beyond!*

Job was living in two worlds, the natural world and the spiritual world. So are we. Behind Job's natural experiences, behind his natural problems, a spiritual experience was being worked out that the natural man could not see—In fact, it was a spiritual conflict. If Job had seen what was going on in the spirit world, he no longer would have been full of sorrow. He would have been overjoyed. What was going on that would have made Job rejoice?

The Bible gives a clear, behind-the-scenes look at what really was taking place. It's true that Job had lost his family, his wealth, his health, but listen to what God said to Satan: ... *still he [Job] holdeth fast his integrity, although thou movedst me against him, to destroy him without cause* (Job 2:3).

Do you see what was happening? While Job was going through those problems and through those circumstances, what he could not see behind the scenes was that God was actually bragging on Job! In the natural, from his friends, came criticism. In the spiritual, he was God's example of victory over Satan's attack.

If we knew that someone was going through all of those trials, such as Job had, we would ask, why? What did they do? There must be a reason why all of those things are happening to them. Surely they must be receiving

punishment for something they've done. Job's friends thought there was a natural reason in Job's life behind all of those things that he was going through, but God was saying to Satan, look at Job! Isn't he great?

Even in the midst of all of those trials and troubles, Satan could only go so far and no further! *And the LORD said unto Satan, Behold, all that he hath is in thy power; only upon himself put not forth thine hand ...* (Job 1:12). *And the LORD said unto Satan, Behold, he is in thine hand; but save his life* (Job 2:6). The devil could go only as far as God permitted him to go and not one inch farther! The reason he could go no further is that God and God alone was in total, absolute control of every circumstance.

God is in control, not the devil, not our troubles, not our circumstances, not our conditions. Almighty God is in control of every circumstance of our life and of this entire universe. In control! Not governments, not space vehicles, not the satellites, not the scientists, but GOD is in complete control. When you understand this, you understand that in the midst of your trials, and in the midst of your circumstances, you are under the complete protection of God Almighty. You may not see it, but it is always there. God keeps us under His protection, even in the midst of the fiery furnace of affliction.

In the trials of our faith, there is a spiritual **limit** that God places on our tests. This is our total confidence of ultimate victory! There is an end to the trial. Even without being able to see behind the scenes, Job was able to say in faith: *Though he [God] slay me, yet will I trust in him ...* (Job 13:15). Job won the victory! Even without seeing the battle in the heavenlies, Job had the key to victory—his faith in God!

In the New Testament, when Thomas did not believe that Jesus was risen from the dead, he was permitted to see and to feel the wounds in Jesus' hands and side. Then he believed. Jesus said to him, *...Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed* (John 20:29). Being enabled by the Spirit to see what is behind our trials is the key to our victory.

I pray that your heart will grasp that key and make it real in your own life as you claim the victory right now. Whether God parts the veil and lets you see the reason does not matter. It is sufficient to know that there **is** a reason and that God is in control. Through loss, through sickness, through ridicule, through accusation, through snowstorm, through every affliction, God knows why, and that is enough.

Job won the victory! Even without seeing with the natural eye, without knowing what was behind the scenes, Job never lost his faith in God. Because of it, he is held up as an example to us:

Take, my brethren, the prophets, who have spoken in the name of the LORD, for an example of suffering affliction, and of patience. Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the LORD; that the LORD is very pitiful, and of tender mercy.

James 5:10-11

God gave Job back more financial blessing than he had ever known, twice as much as he had before. God blessed him with a new family. Everything that Job had lost in the trial was given back to him, and greater. *So the LORD blessed the latter end of Job more than his beginning ...* (Job 42:12).

The life of Job reveals a great key to victory—not the victory of man’s mind, not the victory of the ability of friends to judge our circumstances or our condition. Friends were not able to comprehend the providences of God in the life of Job. The victory that Job won was not a victory in the natural world. That was just the end result. The battle was not in the natural world. Though he lost his health, though he lost his money, though he lost his family, Job’s battle was not in the natural world. His battle was in the spiritual world.

When Job won the battle, it was not so important what the results were in the natural world, but it was important that he won his victory in the spirit world. He won a victory of the battle of his faith. Not

understanding, he held fast! Not comprehending, he trusted! Sick, weak, poor, and lonely, he believed God! On the edge of the natural victory, God gave Job a spiritual victory.

God revealed Himself to Job. He revealed Himself to Job as greater than man—greater than man in power, greater than man in wisdom, and greater than man in mercy. In your trial, in your loss, in your affliction, let God reveal Himself to you as never before. Look behind the scene. *You are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world* (1 John 4:4).

God is in control, and God is greater than your trial. He is greater than your suffering. He is greater than your test, and greater than any circumstance in your life. As you turn loose of your doubts, as you let your fears slip away, as you relax in faith in those everlasting arms, let Him be greater in your life than the greatest problem you have.

When I was in Washington, D.C., for special meetings in the summer of 1977, I was in my hotel room thinking of the great new outreaches with which God had challenged this ministry, even though friends could not believe the schedule I already was keeping. Five years before, we had been led of God to purchase 228 acres of land in an undeveloped area in the heart of San Diego County. The price was very moderate, and for five years the owners allowed us to pay interest only. In 1977, God began to reveal to us the vision of what He would have us to do with the property. In the natural, it was staggering!

For years I have been traveling to the far corners of the earth to hold massive overseas crusades. A very integral part of those early apostolic, missionary, evangelistic trips was the National Training Institute, which I conducted to show the Christian Nationals of those nations how they may have the power of the resurrected Christ in their own ministries. God showed me long ago that one man or two or several could not reach the whole world for Christ. The National is the key.

There are many reasons for training and motivating the Nationals. It takes a lot of money to train and send traditional missionaries. The Nationals are already on the field. They have no language barriers to overcome. They know the cultural background, are accustomed to the food and water, etc. Also, they can get into areas where traditional missionaries could never reach, especially in these days when so many countries are closing their borders to outside intervention.

My book, Son, Build Me An Army, tells the story behind our National Evangelist Training Outreach that has allowed me to personally train hundreds of thousands of Nationals. Many of these have gone on to train thousands more. Still, the heathen nations of this world continued to multiply at an alarming rate. We were seeing tens of millions of people each year added to the roll of the lost. One-fourth of the world was closed to normal missionary activity. Jesus commanded us to go and preach to every creature, but the task had seemed formidable.

Trained, motivated Nationals are still the key, but how do we reach the necessary number of Nationals? If I responded to the invitations I already have on my desk to go to the different countries to train the Nationals, I have more invitations than I could fill in 50 years. But God unfolded a plan! A World Outreach Center was to be constructed on the 228 acres which had now become very valuable land, worth many times what we had paid for it. The first development of the World Outreach Center was to be a School of Ministry. We would have Nationals come here to receive their training.

As God gave us the vision, we announced plans for the School of Ministry as a “spiritual boot camp” for ministers and Christian laymen from all over the world. Not only would they, as students, receive this intense, motivating, six-month training, but in order to enroll, each was to promise that *they* would train 100 additional people. They would leave the School of Ministry with the anointing, the tools, and a blueprint of spiritual strategy to overtake the heathen in their day. We still use this

strategy today and for the same reasons. It is the first time I could see how we could overtake the heathen.

If we train 1,000 leaders a year in a School of Ministry, in 10 years that will be 10,000. If each one of them trains 100 people each, that will be one million! Take that through multiplication year after year. Others trained, others raised up, receiving our instruction through Schools of Ministry which are being set up by Nationals all over the world. Our objective today is TEN MILLION trained, motivated, moving soldiers! I said, "OVERTAKE THE HEATHEN!"

We can do it!

This is a challenge to our faith. Never have we taken a greater step of faith than when we accepted the task God put before us. In the natural, the task before us would be overwhelming, but God came to me, and He spoke to me in a most precious way. I had His Words put onto a tapestry for our special partners. Here is what God said:

Don't look to the bigness of your need. Look to the bigness of your God. Your circumstances are hindrances to seeing My abilities. If you keep your eyes on your circumstances, the devil will use your circumstances to defeat you and accuse the Word of God, the written and the Living Word. Your victory is in keeping your eyes on the bigness of your God and His ability. He has promised to take you step by step by step, not all at once, but step by step, and each step will be a miracle!

God told me to tell you this: Get your eyes off your circumstances. The devil will use them to defeat you. Get your eyes on the bigness of your God. Let Him take you step by step by step. Each step will be a MIRACLE! God ministered to me with those words, and with those words He lifted the veil so that I could see clearly, and I pray that you will see clearly that *God is greater than any circumstance that could ever affect our lives*. As you absorb that fact, as it becomes a part of your great inner knowing, something will happen in your life. In fact, something is happening NOW!

CHAPTER 10

SOMETHING IS HAPPENING RIGHT NOW!

What in the world is happening now? Something is happening where you are right now! Something else is happening while you're sitting there reading and praying—something deep, something real. There are things going on behind the scenes of your life, concerning your circumstances, that you do not see.

Whatever the trial that you face, whatever the problem that you are going through in the natural world, there is a spiritual reason behind the scenes. Behind the veil of your life there is a spiritual battle. Satan is out to tear you down and to destroy you. He will bring every force he can against you. But also behind the scene God is there, and He is on **YOUR** side. There are two forces at work in your circumstances—good and evil, God and Satan—and **GOD IS GREATER!** Believe me, He is greater!

Let me put those four basic questions to you personally.

QUESTION NUMBER 1: Do you love God with an absolutely pure love? Or do you just love Him for what He has given you or can do for you?

QUESTION NUMBER 2: Is God in absolute control? Or is there some other power over which God has no control that can control your life?

QUESTION NUMBER 3: Is your outer circumstance an indication of your spiritual character before God? Is it true that only the unrighteous or sinners suffer, or do the righteous really suffer?

QUESTION NUMBER 4: Is there any way that man's wisdom can understand the providences of God at work in your life?

Settle those four basic questions in your life.

Realize that you are a child of God and that all of the demons in hell cannot point their finger at you in accusation. Realize that God is in absolute and total control of your life and all of your circumstances. Understand that the trials in your life are not retribution from God for the past or present failures. Realize that man's wisdom can in no way understand or fathom the providences of God. You have the key to a relationship of victory in every circumstance of your life. You can understand why it is that the righteous suffer, why they go through trials and problems and have needs. You have the same key to victory that Job had.

When you don't understand the precise objective in the battle, stand firm, with no guilt or condemnation. Despite the trial, look up, and know that God is in full control. Despite the pain, believe God! His Word never fails. His promises are never abandoned. You will win the battle in the spiritual world, and the result will show up in the natural world. God has that victory for you. He is greater than your pain. He is greater than your trial. He is greater than your family problem. He is greater than your material need. He is greater than your enemies. GOD IS GREATER.

In 2 Chronicles, Chapter 13, Judah was living for God, yet the enemy caused an ambush to come about behind them (verse 13). The enemy will beset you behind and before, but GOD IS GREATER.

And when Judah looked back, behold, the battle was before and behind: and they cried unto the LORD, and the priests sounded with the trumpets. Then the men of Judah gave a shout: and as the men of Judah shouted, it came to pass, that ... God delivered them into their hand.

2 Chronicles 13:14-16

When righteous Judah cried unto the Lord, God smote the enemy, and they fled before them. **GOD IS GREATER.** I believe that God is moving in your life to give you a spiritual victory today that will bring to you the natural results of that victory to enrich and bless your life in a new way!

Now journey with me to the next chapter. I want to share with you the most exciting challenge that God has ever given this ministry, the “I Care” Prayer Ministry! God has put a word in my mouth for you. This is your year to take the limits off of God!

CHAPTER 11

“I CARE” PRAYER MINISTRY

Right now I am going to minister personally to you. I will agree with you for the victories you need in your life, every one of them! God has given us a very definite ministry in respect to your prayer needs. God has shown me that we must take the limits off of Him to meet the needs in our lives. He has put a word in my mouth for you. When you send us your prayer request, you will be sent a specific answer concerning your specific need.

God speaks to His people today. He speaks through His ministers, and He speaks to His people. Much prayer and seeking of God's anointing takes place over each letter that goes out. **GOD HAS A WORD FOR YOU.** My letter to you, in answer to your prayer need, will have three specific things in it.

1. It will have a specific word from God directly related to your specific need, whether it is for an unsaved loved one, for a financial need, for a family problem, for a bondage to be broken, whatever the need. God speaks to us, and because He does, we can speak a word to you in His Name. This is a perfectly scriptural process. God always has used His servants to speak His words unto the people. Moses was an outstanding example: *And Moses said unto them, Stand still, and I will hear what the LORD will command concerning you* (Numbers 9:8).

In another instance, God used Samuel to bring a word to Saul:

And as they were going down to the end of the city, Samuel said to Saul, Bid the servant pass on before us, (and he passed on,) but stand thou still a while, that I may shew thee the word of God.

1 Samuel 9:27

The people came to Jeremiah specifically for him to seek out the word of God for direction in their lives. They told him:

... pray for us unto the LORD thy God ... That the LORD thy God may shew us the way wherein we may walk, and the thing that we may do. Then Jeremiah the prophet said unto them, I have heard you; behold, I will pray unto the LORD your God according to your words; and it shall come to pass, that whatsoever thing the LORD shall answer you, I will declare it unto you; I will keep nothing back from you.

Jeremiah 42:2-4

2. Your answer will include a specific scripture verse from the Bible relating directly to your request, no generalizations. God has a promise for you directly from His Word!
3. I will send a special prayer directly related to your request, one in which we can agree together, for the answer to your need.

One of the greatest scriptures that we have in the entire Bible is found in Matthew 18:19, ... *if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven.* I will pray for your request, not only by myself, but members of my staff will be agreeing with me for your need. All of these three things will come to you in a personal letter.

In addition, every Friday is a day of prayer at World Evangelism headquarters in San Diego. We hold chapel services in which prayer for your needs is a very vital part. Even that is not the end of the prayer ministry. Your prayer request will then be placed upon the altar in our chapel, where it will be prayed for continually by our staff and our ministry volunteers. Your request will stay before God, and it will continue to be

the object of our constant prayers until you write to say, **PRAISE GOD! THE WORK IS DONE!** Your request will then be removed from the altar and transferred to the testimonies coordinator. It becomes another great testimony that God has done it again!

Send me your requests today so that we can agree with you for the limit to be taken off of God for your specific needs and for the specific needs of your loved ones. *Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: (James 5:14). ... these signs shall follow them that believe ... they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover (Mark 16:17-18).*

CHAPTER 12

YOUR POINT OF CONTACT TO RECEIVE GOD'S POWER

God has given me a very special way to share this “I Care” Prayer Ministry with you right here and now through the pages of this book. It is based on the very scriptural, very real way that Paul ministered to those in need in his day. He did it by sending handkerchiefs or aprons to those in need. ... *from his body were brought unto the sick handkerchiefs or aprons, and the diseases departed from them, and the evil spirits went out of them* (Acts 19:12).

God often uses a point of contact to bring his delivering and healing power to meet the needs of the people. He uses earthly, material items as a point whereby we may release our faith to receive what we need from Him. A good example of this is found in Mark 5:25-34. A woman who had been hemorrhaging for 12 years, and who had spent all of her means on doctors without receiving her healing, heard about Jesus.

Let me say right here that we believe in medical science. I thank God for the many skilled men and women who have dedicated their lives to help alleviate the suffering of humanity. However, there comes a time when an ailment is too much for a doctor, when their skills are unable to cope with an unknown or an incurable disease.

This woman had experienced going to doctor after doctor without any of them being able to help her or know what to do for her. She was on her way home to die when she heard of Jesus. Her faith was quickened

as she heard of the miracles He had performed, and she said, ... *If I may touch but his clothes, I shall be whole* (Mark 5:28).

She had faith, and she made the garments Jesus wore her point of contact to release that faith. When she touched them, she was made whole from that very hour. *And straightway the fountain of her blood was dried up; and she felt in her body that she was healed of that plague* (Mark 5:29). It was not Jesus' clothes that healed the woman; it was her faith. *And he [Jesus] said unto her, Daughter, thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace, and be whole of thy plague* (Mark 5:34).

This is what happened to the elderly gentleman in Pennsylvania who was healed of cataracts when he received my letter. There was no virtue in the paper the letter was written on. However, it was a point of agreement for our prayers and a point of contact to release the man's faith. In Acts 15:15, the people used Peter's shadow as a point of contact: *Insomuch that they brought forth the sick into the streets, and laid them on beds and couches, that at the least the shadow of Peter passing by might overshadow some of them.* It was not the shadow that brought healing. God's power did that when the people used the shadow as a point of contact to release their faith.

There is no limit with God. He is not limited by time or space. God is a Spirit. He is everywhere present at the same time. He is right there beside you.

PRAYER OF FAITH

Father God, I bring Your child to You. Right now, in the Name of Jesus, I lift this loved one before You for Your victory and for Your healing touch. God, help them to understand that the battle is not in the natural world. Let understanding come that the battle is in the spiritual world. I pray right now in the Name of Jesus that the understanding will come that You are in final, total, absolute authority and control. I pray that the understanding will come of Your great love for them and Your desire to bless

and to pour out upon them Your healing, deliverance, and blessing beyond measure.

Right now, in the Name that is above every name, the Name of Jesus, I take power and authority over Satan. Satan, you will obey the Word of the resurrected Lord. You will not hinder the mind or the spirit of this one loved by God, neither you nor any principality, nor power of spiritual wickedness. You will obey the Word of the living God, Who said, I give you power over all the power of the enemy, and in My Name, you will cast out devils.

I take control of all your evil spirits, devils, demons, and the works of hell and darkness in this life right now. I bind you, and I cast you out. Obey the Word of the living Lord. Be bound from the control and the influence in this life, in this burden, in this heartache, in this problem, in this sickness, in this financial need. In the Name of Jesus be bound and be broken now under the hammer of the Word of the living God, Who said, *Is not my word like as a fire? saith the LORD; and like a hammer that breaketh the rock in pieces?* (Jeremiah 23:29).

NOW I WANT YOU TO SAY THIS PRAYER OUT LOUD:

Father God, Jehovah,

I thank You for Your absolute, total control of my life and every circumstance in it. I thank You for Your total love that operates Your control. Right now I receive the miracle I need. I receive into my life complete liberty and victory and joy over every circumstance. You said, *Call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me. You said, Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivereth him out of them all.*

I rejoice in Your total victory in my problems and in the spiritual relationship that You are working out through them in me. I praise you for TOTAL VICTORY!

In Jesus' Name. Amen.

The following are the Bible texts which were used in this prayer:

... Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven.

Matthew 18:18-19

And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;

Mark 16:17

Behold, I give unto you power ... Over all the power of the enemy ...

Luke 10:19

Is not my word like as a fire? saith the LORD; and like a hammer that breaketh the rock in pieces?

Jeremiah 23:29

And call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me.

Psalms 50:15

Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the LORD delivereth him out of them all.

Psalms 34:19

Beloved, you are going to see God's victories in your life and circumstances in an ever increasing way. Write to me, and share with me your testimony of the victory God gives to you. This is a personal, continuing, "I Care" Ministry to you, just as going to church or to Bible study is. Even though we are separated by time and space, let this ministry be a part of God's rhythm of miracles for your life. God told me He

would use this ministry to lead you into a place where you will be able to take the limits off of God.

We love you, and we want to bless your life. There is no distance with God. He is a Spirit, and together we can share His great blessings. Let us praise Him continually, for He is worthy.

Faithfully,
God's servant,

Morris Cerullo

P.S. Contact us at www.mcwe.com/prayer with your specific prayer requests. Your prayer requests and needs are important to us. They will be placed on the altar in our chapel in San Diego. Together, Theresa and I are believing God for your complete victory and joy over every circumstance.

MORRIS CERULLO WORLD EVANGELISM

THE MAN...

Dr. Morris Cerullo, president of Morris Cerullo World Evangelism, is a man with a heart that beats for reaching and winning souls.

More than six decades of ministry have been spent in worldwide evangelism, going to the nations preaching and teaching a powerful, uncompromising message of salvation, healing, and deliverance.

Thousands of Nationals worldwide have acknowledged Morris Cerullo as one of the leading prophets of the twenty-first century. Not only does God speak to him, but his prophetic annunciations come with a special anointing of God's presence.

He received a divine, supernatural call from God to preach at the age of fifteen. From that time until now, he has never wavered in his commitment and zeal to fulfill the Great Commission to bring in a harvest of souls from around the world.

God has used Dr. Cerullo to pioneer overseas ministries and to open many countries that have been considered closed to the Gospel. His ministry is accompanied by a manifestation of God's miracle-working power.

Many honors have been bestowed on Morris Cerullo, including honorary doctorates of divinity and humanities by academic leaders, spiritual leaders, and presidents of nations in recognition of his achievements and contributions to global evangelization.

Few ministers have had such an impact on the destiny of the nations of the world. Morris Cerullo's life has been sacrificially dedicated to training and spiritually equipping pastors, lay people, and evangelists to reach their nations for Christ with a supernatural endowment of God's power.

THE MESSAGE...

God has anointed Dr. Cerullo with a unique ability to communicate to others the power and anointing God has given him. The message he

proclaims is the uncompromised Word of God on salvation, healing, baptism of the Holy Spirit, and Christ's second coming.

Over the past six decades, God has used Morris to release prophetic messages over people and nations and to strengthen and prepare the Church to fulfill His purposes in this end-time hour.

He is one of the major leaders in the area of spiritual warfare. God has used his revolutionary messages on spiritual warfare to equip and train a vast army of spiritual warriors to move from a defensive to an offensive position and to walk in 100 percent victory in every area of their lives.

Breakthrough messages, such as ***Proof Producers, The New Anointing, The Battle For Your Mind, The Last Great Anointing, The Battle For Your Tongue, Making Possible Your Impossibilities***, and many more, have revolutionized the lives of multiplied thousands worldwide.

THE MINISTRY...

Dr. Morris Cerullo is a worldwide evangelist and a father of the faith to many of today's renowned spiritual leaders. Affectionately known as 'Papa', he is also a prophetic voice who has personally trained more than 4 million Christian leaders, otherwise called Nationals, around the world to reach their own countries for Jesus Christ.

This God-given vision of reaching multiplied millions for the Gospel is now being fulfilled through the building of a worldwide, state-of-the-art training center. The Morris Cerullo Legacy International Center will offer ministerial training for ordination, individual course training, as well as Bible prophecy and Hebrew studies.

Dr. Cerullo's passion has further blossomed into the launch of a revolutionary, seven-year campaign: the **2020 Vision**. With the goal of reaching **20** million souls and training **20** million Nationals by the year **2020**, the purpose of the **2020 Vision** is to reach the entire world with the Gospel through the leading and equipping of Nationals.

SCHOOLS OF MINISTRY

The Morris Cerullo School of Ministry has been called “The school with a difference.” During intensive training sessions, thousands receive extensive training in spiritual warfare and in how to “work the works of God.”

The teaching and training during these schools goes beyond the textbooks. It takes the people beyond the realm of “head knowledge” and into “revelation knowledge.” Through these sessions, there is an impartation and anointing of the Holy Spirit which mobilizes and equips the students to reach their countries with the Gospel in a demonstration of God’s power.

Since 1962, when God gave Dr. Cerullo the mandate, “Son, build Me an army,” more than 4 million National pastors, ministers, and lay people, in 130 nations, have been trained!

GLOBAL PRAYER STRIKE FORCE

In 1997, God spoke to Dr. Cerullo and said, “Raise up a prayer covering over the world.” Since that time, an army of approximately 100,000 intercessors has been mobilized to cover the world with on going, strategic warfare prayer and intercession. More than 500 Global Prayer Strike Force leaders in 67 different countries have been established. Thousands of Prayer Command Centers have been established in homes and churches around the world.

***VICTORY TODAY* WITH MORRIS CERULLO**

Victory Today daily television is an innovative, global broadcast available through our Web site and the Morris Cerullo phone app. Everyday, Morris Cerullo shares prophetic promises God has placed in His Word for you, along with core ministry teachings.

BOOK AND DVD MINISTRY

Morris is the prolific author of more than 200 classic, Christian books, unique study Bibles, and has produced numerous DVD training materials.

MORRIS CERULLO WORLD EVANGELISM

U.S.:

P. O. Box 85277 • San Diego, CA 92186
(858) 633-4885

Web Site: www.mcwe.com

U.K.:

P. O. Box 277 • Hemel Hempstead
Herts HP2 7DH
(01442) 232-432

CANADA:

P. O. Box 3600 • Concord, Ontario
L4K 1B6
(905) 669-1758

CAN. Web site: www.mcwe.ca



<https://www.facebook.com/officialmorriscerullo>

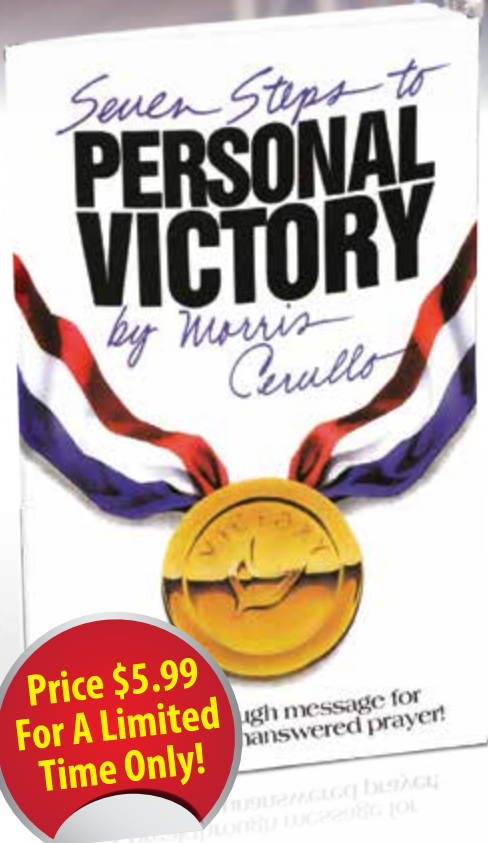


https://twitter.com/morris_cerullo



<http://www.youtube.com/DrMorrisCerullo>

GOD'S BREAKTHROUGH MESSAGE FOR PERSONAL VICTORY!



Are you facing insurmountable challenges? Are you facing a personal circumstance or problem in your life, in your family, or with your children? Is there a personal need you have? Have you been in conflict with the power of the enemy? You are not alone!

Empower yourself to:

- Pray with power!
- Obtain breakthrough victory: unanswered prayers will be answered!
- Grab hold of the kind of faith in the Lord that results in 100 percent victory, 100 percent of the time!

God is eagerly awaiting you to allow Him the opportunity to move into your life and turn your circumstances around! God's will and desire is to answer your every prayer and fulfill your every need!

"I guarantee you, that after receiving what the Holy Spirit has to give you through this revelation, your life, your family, and your ministry will never be the same again." —Morris Cerullo

Please go to www.mcwe.com/store and search for *Seven Steps to Personal Victory* in the top right hand corner!

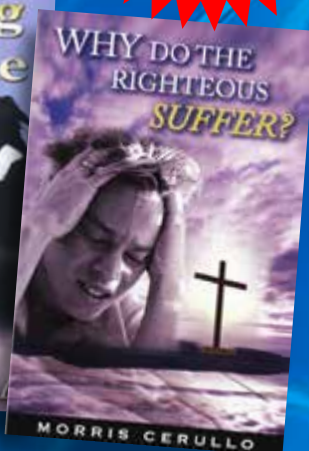
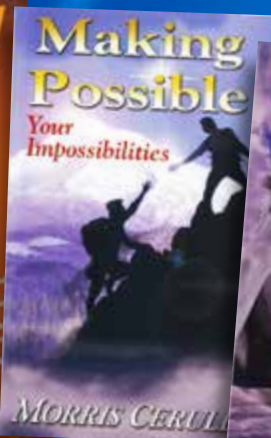
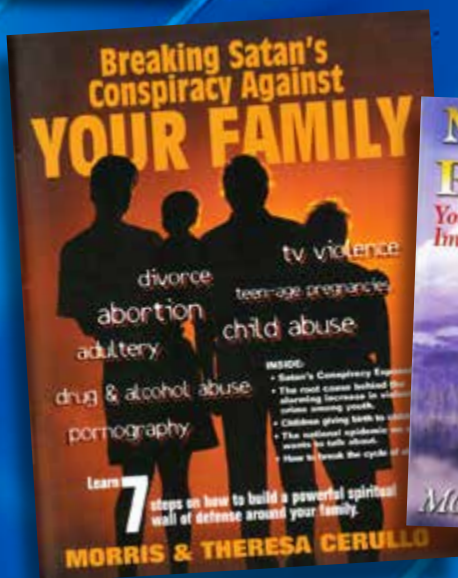
Morris Cerullo's *God Sees, Hears, and Delivers* Series



You may think God doesn't hear your cries, feel your pain, or understand your sorrows and afflictions, or that He cannot deliver you out of the dark depths of despair and depression. But He is El Shaddai, the God Who is more than enough. He sees, hears, delivers, and most importantly, He cares!

**Act now
to receive this
incredible offer!**

You can obtain the answers
you have been seeking, and
Satan-proof your entire
family.



Breaking Satan's Conspiracy Against Your Family, exposes the root cause behind the alarming increase in divorce, addiction, abuse, teenage pregnancy, and violent crime among youth.

Making Possible Your Impossibilities, examines the question: When you have done everything you know to overcome adversity, and nothing works, what do you do? My book uncovers the answer.

Why Do The Righteous Suffer? This is one of the most perplexing questions of those in distress, but there is an answer. This book, as well as my personal ministry to you, is designed to bring your life into a place of total victory. Let this book take you to new victories in Him!

**Price \$29.95
For A Limited
Time Only!**

God has a Word for you, NOW! Order today and unlock the answers you need to achieve the victory you have been seeking. Don't delay! Please go to www.mcwe.com/store, and search for ***God Sees, Hears, and Delivers*** in the top right corner!

Second Printing 2007
First Printing 1978
Copyright© 1978
Morris Cerullo World Evangelism
All Rights Reserved
Printed in the U.S.A.
24434
ISBN: 978-1-932579-35-2