

The Father Knows Best

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All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise noted, are from the King James Version. Italics for emphasis are ours.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction 5

Chapter 1 7

COME BOLDLY TO THE LORD

Chapter 2 11

GOD WORKS ALL THINGS FOR GOOD

Chapter 3 14

TRUST IN THE WISDOM OF GOD

CONCLUSION 18

INTRODUCTION

Imagine your young son or daughter coming to you and asking for permission to go roller-skating on the highway. “No” would be your answer, of course. You would then probably explain the danger of doing such a thing. The child may express some disappointment, but he would probably follow your instructions. Your direction kept him safe and out of danger.

As parents, we make decisions for our children. They sometimes disagree with the choices we make for their lives. Still, we make those choices for them, understanding that our experiences and knowledge are better developed than their own.

Christ was directed by His Father in everything He did (John 5:19-20). In the same way, our heavenly Father is eager to guide and direct our lives. We would be wise to allow Him to direct us by His Spirit and His Word. Yet, in His sovereignty, He has chosen not to violate our

freedom to choose.

In this booklet, we will examine the value of giving the control over our lives to God the Father. Through these pages, we will see that the all-wise, all-powerful, and everywhere-present God will always do what is best for us and for our families.

Chapter One

COME BOLDLY TO THE LORD

“How long wilt thou forget me, O LORD? for ever? how long wilt thou hide thy face from me?

“How long shall I take counsel in my soul, having sorrow in my heart daily? how long shall mine enemy be exalted over me?” (Psalm 13:1-2).

I find it very unusual to see the boldness of David when he addresses God. The king is amazingly open with God, and that makes what He says very interesting.

Of all the men in the Bible, I do not believe that any man spoke to God more boldly than David did. He had a way of being very upfront with God—and I think God liked it. I believe it is one of the reasons God called David “a man after mine own heart” (1 Samuel 13:14; Acts 13:22).

Pleading for the Sheep

“O God, why hast thou cast us off for ever?

why doth thine anger smoke against the sheep of thy pasture?

“Remember thy congregation, which thou hast purchased of old; the rod of thine inheritance, which thou hast redeemed; this mount Zion, wherein thou hast dwelt” (Psalm 74:1-2).

Look at this statement by David: “Why does Your anger smoke against the sheep of Your pasture?” That is a bold statement. Do you ever talk to God like that? I have never dared to talk to Him that way. I mean, I believe that God is right in whatever He does. So, if you were to ask me, I would vote for whatever God says every single time. Still, I find it interesting that David had the boldness and intimacy to trust God in this fashion.

“I cried unto God with my voice, even unto God with my voice; and he gave ear unto me” (Psalm 77:1). This is how David addressed God. “Answer me speedily, God!” David had great boldness.

God loves this approach, and He wants us to have the same kind of boldness. I have told this story many times, but it deserves repeating. My daughter Melody always knew how to get something out of me. “Daddy, you are the best! I love you,” she would say.

A few minutes would pass and then again.
“Daddy, I am so glad you’re my daddy.”

Then came the kicker.

“Daddy? There is this dress at the store in town. It’s only this much—but if you don’t have it, that’s okay.”

I could not wait to give her the money for the dress. What happened? She just came boldly and asked for it.

God really wants us to know and love Him and trust Him this intimately. Now, of course, there were other times when I had to tell my daughter that she couldn’t have something or couldn’t do something. That is because I had to look out for her best interests.

The Lord does the same thing with us.

Delight in the Ways and the Word of God

“I will meditate in thy precepts, and have respect unto thy ways.

“I will delight myself in thy statutes: I will not forget thy word” (Psalm 119:15-16).

I have a mental exercise that I love to go through when I am having trouble understanding why things happen to me. I have used it again and again, and I believe this exercise will help you, too, because there will come times

when you cannot understand why certain things are happening.

Like Ezra in Psalm 119, I have to meditate on God's precepts. I have to park there for a while and have respect unto His ways. In this way, I get built up as I meditate on God's love for me and the fact that He wants what is best for me.

The first part of this exercise is to recognize that God loves me individually. I start by saying to myself, "God loves me and wants the best for me." That comes first. God loves me, He calls me by name, and He wants the best for me. His love is perfect.

Chapter Two

GOD WORKS ALL THINGS FOR GOOD

“And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose” (Romans 8:28).

The second part of my mental exercise is to see that God knows everything, and He knows what is best for me. This is extremely crucial. The eyes of the Lord are in every place. All the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are hid in Him (Colossians 2:3).

So God knows everything, and God knows what is best for me. If He loves me, then He knows what is best for me. Because He knows everything, He knows how to provide the best for me in every situation. I have to remember that.

God always has to work around the wrong decisions we make. Don't ever forget that. God

will never violate human volition. He gave us a free will, and He will never violate it. Free volition is the first gift and institution of God toward man. It is part of His sovereign plan.

On that basis, His plan is different from what we think, because even though He knows the wrong decisions I will make, He will not stop me from making them. Still, His sovereign plan will make something good out of those decisions, according to Romans 8:28.

Working Around Our Weaknesses

The Word of God says, “Be patient in tribulation and instant in prayer” (Romans 12:12). Unfortunately, we don’t always follow this truth. God, then, has to work around the fact that I don’t always pray when I should. He has to work around the fact that I don’t always fellowship intimately with Him. I may not do bad things per se, but I am just not always in tune with the intimacies that come from His wisdom.

Are we faithful to hear God’s perfect will for every matter we encounter? I am sure each of us can think of times when we were doing fine, but then we stepped out of His will. There is no sense in worrying about that now. Just know that God knows all, and He knows exactly what

is best for you and me.

God is all-powerful; therefore, He can do what is best for us. When we recognize this, we begin to trust Him.

Suppose someone marries outside of wise counsel and the perfect will of God. God will not force a husband to get right and to serve Him. But God will give grace to the wife. In His omniscience, God the Father knows everything about the situation. The Lord will work on that husband in the sovereign process of time. He did not put this woman in this marriage, yet God will do the very best for her in the situation.

He loves us through it all—even through the results of our unwise decisions—and He will never leave us nor forsake us when we fall short of His perfect will.

Chapter Three

TRUST IN THE WISDOM OF GOD

“Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory forever and ever. Amen” (1 Timothy 1:17).

The next thing to consider is that God is full of wisdom; therefore, He will do the best for you. Not only does He want what is best for you, but He has the power to do what is best for you. Furthermore, He knows and will only do what is best for you.

As a parent, I have to admit that I have not always known what is best for my children. I believe I have been a good parent, but I am sure if I could relive my life with the wisdom I have now, I could have been a better parent. I am not living in condemnation; still, I must admit that my experiences would make me a better parent.

One pastor I know appointed his seventeen-year-old son as the youth leader in his church. It didn't work out. The temptations and pressures

were too great for the young man and he failed miserably. This pastor said, “If I could change that decision, I would. But I can’t now.” Fortunately, the son came around, and everything worked together and the pastor’s ministry was blessed and continued to grow.

Making the Most of Marriage

We do try to do what is best; yet we just don’t always know what is best. It bothers me tremendously when I have counseled couples where a husband is so busy with his ministry that he is insensitive to the needs of his wife. The responsibilities of the church are never to take the place of the needs in a marriage. Sometimes leaders neglect their wives and families, but the church is there to encourage and edify couples and families.

There have been times when my wife has battled severe physical illness, and I have told her I would stay home instead of coming to preach. She has never said, “Yes, please stay home,” and she knows that I would. In other words, I don’t care how big my work is, if I am a failure as a husband, I am a failure in life.

I am not trying to lay a guilt trip on anyone. Yet, I want to be clear about this. As pastors, our

wives are to be second only to God in our lives. We are to build them up publicly, and we are to watch and be careful about letting women hang around us.

My wife is not a jealous woman. She always encourages me to minister. I do not always know what is best for my wife, but I will give her the best that I know to give her. I do everything I can to make my marriage effective.

I thank God for a man who will come back from the foreign field when his marriage is not what it should be. Perhaps you find it hard to believe that I hold this opinion, but this is what I believe. I can never expect my wife to be what the Bible says she should be unless I first become what I am supposed to be for her. If I do not love my wife with all of my heart, I can never expect my wife to be what I want as a wife.

Bringing Up the Children

The same practice should apply to our families. There is a way to bring up children. None of us will do it perfectly. Still, we have to decide what is best for our children considering their individual makeup, while dealing with them without compromising. We have to consider

how best to love them into victories and how best to help them overcome weaknesses. We want to honor and respect them without being critical.

On an individual level, God will teach us the best possible way to parent a certain child. Why? Because He knows what is best. He knows everything. He has the power to help us do what is best if we follow after Him (John 8:12) and fellowship with Him.

We just need to keep receiving the Word of God in meekness. In meekness, we allow the fruit of the Holy Spirit to be cultivated in us (James 1:21). Then, we will be humble before people because we love them and count them as precious. We will treat them as God treats us. We give them God's best as He gives us what is best for us.

CONCLUSION

God loves me and knows what is best for me. God knows everything, so He knows what is best for me. God is all-powerful, so He can do what is best for me. God is full of wisdom, and He will do what He says He will do for me. He will work all things together for good.

Think of the times when God has worked around your weaknesses to bless you. Believe me, He does it. And that is one of the big reasons I love Him.

He loves us, and He will do what is best for us, because His love is infallible. No one who knows His love can resist His Word. No one who knows His grace can reject His provision. No one who understands His holiness can neglect the process of progressive sanctification through His Word and His Spirit (John 17:17; 1 Peter 1:2).

God has the wisdom to take your marriage and turn it around into a most amazing thing.

“Oh, God help me. You have the wisdom. You have the knowledge. You have the power. Give me what I need for my family. Give me what I need for my wife!” When God finds you flat on your face, praying, He will hear your prayer, and He will work to make a difference very quickly.

The Father knows best, and He will make all things beautiful in His time (Ecclesiastes 3:11).