

Liberty Commentary July 7, 2008

When nationally known speaker David Ring spoke at the Marshalltown High School auditorium last week, one could not help but ask the question, why did such horrible things happen to such a descent person?

David was born with cerebral palsy. David was the youngest of eight children. Three of David's brothers were hemophiliacs and have since died. David's parents separated when he was nine, his father died of cancer when he was eleven and his mother died of cancer when he was fourteen. Why would God allow all of this heartache to happen to such an innocent person?

These are never easy questions to answer, but we can find some solace and some answers in Gods Word. In Acts chapter twelve we see the account of the Apostle James who was martyred by Herod because of his faith in Jesus Christ. We also see in the very same chapter another Apostle, Peter, who was cast into prison while awaiting his execution that was to take place the next day. God chose to deliver Peter from the shackles of the prison by supernaturally allowing the chains to fall off and the gates of the prison to open, allowing Peter to escape unscathed from his awaiting execution.

Why would God allow one Apostle to die and yet intervene in the life of another Apostle and deliver him from prison? Man does not have the answers. God is sovereign. He works his will as he chooses. We must accept it. We must realize that man can equally glorify God in death as well as in life. It is Gods prerogative to choose the method. Peter and James both trusted in the sovereignty of God no matter what happened. This is probably why Peter was asleep in the prison instead of wringing his hands in despair and worry.

Let us not question God when he chooses to heal one of cancer and not the other. Learn to say like Job, “God be praised, the Lord giveth and the Lord taketh away”. This needs to be our attitude.

God is Sovereign and we must accept his will as Peter and James did. The night before his execution Peter was chained and sleeping between two prison guards. How is it that a person who has just seen a fellow Apostle killed with the sword be fast asleep in the prison as he is chained between two soldiers and awaiting his execution the next day. Peter was practicing what he preached. Peter had come to know the abiding presence of Gods sovereign will. Peter writes in I Peter 5:7, “casting all your care upon Him for He careth for you”.

Jesus had given Peter the task of pastoring the sheep (the church) and Peter knew that the safest place for him to reside was in the midst of Gods will. When God gives a person a task to do, God will see to it that it is carried out to completion before he calls that person home. The person who immerses themselves in the middle of Gods will and commits themselves totally to Gods plan and purpose is invincible until Gods prerogatives have been accomplished through that person.

God gave Peter another twenty years of ministry before he was executed and martyred for his faith. It is believed that each of the Apostles were most likely martyred for their faith in Christ, but before God called them home He used them in great ways to change the course of history and even today lives are changed because of their inspired writings in the Word of God.

Maybe you have had a tragedy in your life and you prayed for deliverance but God did not answer in the way that you wanted. Don't be bitter toward God about something bad that happened in your life. Don't allow bad experiences of the past to hinder you from placing your life squarely in the plan and purpose of God as

you move forward with your life. God can take your tragedy and turn it into triumph if you will submit to his will and cast all of your cares upon Him.

Don't live your life being bitter about the past. Life is not to be lived wallowing in self-pity about what has happened to you. Life is to be lived rejoicing in what has happened in you through the abiding presence of the Holy Spirit who is able to give you the grace at the moment you need it to face what ever challenge may present itself.

Jesus says, "that in the world you shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer I have overcome the world". Living the Christian life has never been easy, but we can rise above the challenges if we will realize that God has all things in control and will work all things out for our good and His glory if we will abide in Him.

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