

“FEELING DISTANT FROM GOD IN ADVERSITY”

I Samuel 27:1-12; 29:6-11; 30:1-6

I. INTRODUCTION:

A. Embracing a timeless truth from Scripture: (Rom. 15:4)

“In the midst of adversity, we tend to experience spiritual dryness and seasons of spiritual distance from God. This ‘spiritual desertion’ is not a sign of failure or abandonment, but part of God’s work in deepening our faith and humbly, exposing hidden sins in our hearts.” Dr. Kyle Strobel

B. “Fruitful” living – the result of “abiding” (vertical perspective): (Jn. 15:5)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

C. Carnal “pronouns” – the result of a horizontal perspective: (I Cor. 3:3) (I Sam. 27:1)

1. Sin of the heart – “David said in his heart”:
2. Pessimistic thinking – “I shall now perish one day”: (I Sam. 16:1)
3. Self-pity – “There is nothing better for me”:

II. PRUNED WITH ADVERSITY TO RESTORE AN “ABIDING” FOCUS:

A. The short-term consequences of a carnal perspective: 27:4-12

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

B. When carnality is allowed to run its course: 29:6-11; 30:1-6

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

C. Allowing the “pruning” to restore an abiding perspective: (I Sam. 30:6b)

- 1.
- 2.

“If this is where you have me, Lord, I am yours here.”

III. PRINCIPLES TO PERSONALLY APPLY:

(Together becoming “people of the Word” in principle AND in practice)

A.

B.

C.

SINNERS PRAYER

Dear Heavenly Father, I was made by you and I was made for you, but I have been living for myself. I am sorry for that self-rule you call sin. I believe that Jesus Christ being my creator God, died, was buried, and rose again to pay the insurmountable debt that my sin has created since birth. So right now, I am turning from a life of going my own way, to by faith, place my trust in Jesus Christ, to pay the debt of all my sin, and to get me to heaven, when I breathe my last breath. Lord Jesus, from today on, I am yours. Thanks for saving me, this very moment, in Jesus name, amen.