

Sunday, August 13, 2023  
YOU CAN'T LIVE IN A PLACE WHERE GOD DOES NOT LIVE

The Lord is directing us to begin a teaching on the five-fold ministry beginning next Sunday. Before that, we're going to go through a study today called "You Can't Live in a Place where God Does not Live."

Challenges are common to life. Let's go a bit deeper.... Sometimes, devastation happens in life. It can knock you to your knees – leaving you wondering how you are going to go on living. As we search for answers in the presence of such events, we do find that God does not forsake His children in trauma. We also find that He is available for those who have not followed Him if only they will call upon Him in humility. While God is always present, there are places that He visits because we may be there but places that He does not live. What this means is simply:

There are mindsets that develop due to trauma which do not line up with God's ultimate plans for you nor do they represent who you are or who He is. Therefore, although we may experience the feelings of trauma, we cannot live in the unbiblical mindsets they create.

Trauma does not determine our future, nor does it accurately define how God feels about us. Unbiblical mindsets create a future that blocks the realization of the Fruit of the Spirit and create roadblocks to the will of God for life.

Reading the account of Job or Elijah as he ran from Jezebel, or the histories of the apostles lets us know that difficult times are not unusual nor are they indicators of God abandoning us. Traumatic events are indicators of the presence of evil and the reality of an imperfect world. While each event is painful, each is also redeemed by the blood of the Lamb. You will see part of that redemption in your healing and freedom and part in the life to come. *Just as everything in life, trauma will be made to serve God and bow its knee to His lordship.* Here are a few places God will visit but cannot live:

### 1. Hopelessness/Depression

These are a consequence of events. Some experience these when all is well – possibly as a result of a physical malady. God has healing for that as

well. The reality of the event which sends a message of hopelessness or depression is not under question. The event is real. What is not real for the child of God is living in a state of hopelessness or depression. Living in such a state requires the anchoring of a mindset that God is absent or displeased or set on our destruction. At the conclusion of passages dedicated to the presence of God and His ultimate victory amid trouble, we read this:

Romans 8:31-39 (NKJV)

## 2. Regret

It could be said “There is no answer for regret.” Here is what she means: what are you going to do about something that you cannot change? Once again, the events which open the door to regret are not questioned. They occurred. But there is an answer for that which cannot be changed:

**Redemption: deliverance of the believer from sin and its consequences. The promise that the earthly response to sin will ultimately serve God’s purposes.**

In the same passages in Romans regarding God’s presence and victory in trouble, it says this:

Romans 8:28-30 (NKJV)

## 3. Unforgiveness

Unforgiveness is often a response to trauma/difficulty. It can be present in a general sense – such as unforgiveness toward a group of people and in a specific sense toward a specific individual. Unforgiveness can exist toward self for something you did or failed to do in an event. It can also exist toward God for a perceived failure on His part.

**Forgiveness: an intentional decision to let go of grudges and bitterness. A decision made in the absence of requital. A decision empowered to completion by the Holy Spirit.**

Unforgiveness does so many things and none are healthy or helpful. It is the choice that keeps the pain and all its attending mindsets/strongholds active.

### Luke 6:37 (NKJV)

Forgiveness frees us. When speaking to Jesus about her brother's death, Martha said:

“Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died.” // John 11:21

“I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.” // John 11:24

It won't get better in this life. Jesus gave her hope for now: I AM. Don't live in a place where God does not live. Live where He is and allow Him to redeem it all.

Today's Scriptures:

- Romans 8:28-39 (NKJV)
- Luke 6:37 (NKJV)
- John 11:21, 24