

Better Way Apostolic Church- Bible Class

Subject: God won't Abandon You: Psalms 9:9, 10

The refuge — God will not forsake them (vv. 9-10). The first word means "a high safe place" and the second "a strong-hold." During his years of exile, David found the wilderness strongholds to be places of safety, but he knew that the Lord was the safest refuge (46:1). The phrase "times of trouble" means literally "times of extremity". To "know God's name" or "love God's name" means to trust Him and be saved (5:11; 69:36; 91:14; 119:132; 1 Samuel 2:12). God forsook His own Son (Matthew 27:46) that He might never forsake His own people.

Drive or Drought

When you lose hope of doing better, you lose everything that makes life worth living. A great artist was once asked, "What's the best picture you've ever painted?" "The next one," he replied confidently. But another artist was heard to lament, "Too bad I failed," though he was at the very height of his glory. "Why do you say that?" asked a friend of his in astonishment. "Because I've lost any hope of improvement," he said. He was right; the person who has stopped hoping has truly failed.

Why Me, Lord?

My car broke down and it cost \$400 to get it fixed . . . \$400 that I did not have. Why me, Lord? After all, I've been as good as most people. In fact, I've been better than most. Why are you treating me this way? Why are you punishing me this way? Then the TV went on the blink, and so did the dishwasher, and the clothes dryer, and the lawn mower, and even the iron! Why me, Lord? Besides that, why, at my age, should I still be having financial problems? Why am I not "set" financially like some others I know? Why have you denied me opportunities for fame and fortune that you have given to others? Why me, Lord?

When I find myself starting to think like this, it sometimes helps for me to ask the same questions about other aspects of my life. Lord, what have I done that's so grand that you should have blessed me with a car, a TV set, a clothes dryer, a lawn mower, and an iron? Why did you give me all these things anyway? Why me, Lord?

Lord, why did you permit me to be born in America with all its plenty? I could have been born in poverty-stricken Bangladesh instead of in rich America. Why me, Lord? Lord, why did you give me the opportunity to have a job when so many, who are as deserving as I, are without work? Why me, Lord?

Lord, why did you give me good health? Others died at my age of heart attacks or are crippled by accidents or disease. Why should I escape ill health when other religious people do not? Why me, Lord? Lord, why have you spared me from the sorrows that strike so many other families? Others, wonderful people, have lost close relatives, but I haven't. Why me, Lord?

When I think of all the ways the Lord has blessed me, though I don't deserve it, I wonder how I could possibly complain about the relatively insignificant things that go wrong in my life from time to time. If I could only learn to count my blessings!

GOD'S WORD ON ABANDONMENT

One of the most fearful concepts in life is the utter termination of a cherished relationship. Whether we call it abandoning, forsaking, giving up on us, or divorce, the portrait is of a sharp line drawn in a relationship—a line that quickly becomes a great gulf between the two persons, putting them out of reach of one another. And one of the greatest consequences of being abandoned is that it threatens our feeling of self-worth. “I was worthless, so I was abandoned. I had something wrong with me, so no one wanted me.” How comforting to know that God will never abandon anyone who loves him.

WILL GOD ABANDON ME DURING MY DIFFICULT TIMES?

Psalm 9:10 . . . Those who know your name trust in you, for you, O Lord, have never abandoned anyone who searches for you.

Psalm 27:10 . . . Even if my father and mother abandon me, the Lord will hold me close.

John 14:16 . . . I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor, who will never leave you.

2 Corinthians 4:9 . . . We are hunted down, but God never abandons us. We get knocked down, but we get up again and keep going.

A seeking God and a seeking person are always sure to find each other. God will never abandon a seeking person.

EVEN IF ALL OTHERS ABANDON YOU, GOD WILL NOT ABANDON YOU.

Genesis 37:28 . . . When the traders came by, his brothers pulled Joseph out of the pit and sold him for twenty pieces of silver.

Genesis 39:3 . . . The Lord was with Joseph, giving him success in everything he did.

Sometimes we feel like everyone is against us, but God is always for us because he loves us with a deep and lasting love.

GOD WILL NEVER ABANDON HIS PEOPLE.

1 Samuel 12:22 . . . The Lord will not abandon his chosen people.

God will never desert those who trust in him and love him. When you feel abandoned, don't give up on God.

OUR SUFFERING DOES NOT MEAN THAT GOD HAS ABANDONED US.

1 Peter 5:10 . . . After you have suffered a little while, he will restore, support, and strengthen you, and he will place you on a firm foundation.

God has compassion and an eternal reward for those who suffer.

TO WILLFULLY AND COMPLETELY ABANDON GOD IS THE ONLY WAY TO GET GOD TO ABANDON YOU.

1 Samuel 16:14 . . . Now the Spirit of the Lord had left Saul.

The only time God abandons someone is when that person first abandons him, willfully and continuously.

THERE ARE SOME THINGS WE SHOULD ABANDON SO THAT WE CAN HAVE A CLOSER RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD.

Philippians 3:8-10 . . . I have discarded everything else . . . As a result, I can really know Christ and experience the mighty power that raised him from the dead. I can learn what it means to suffer with him, sharing in his death.

Abandoning those things that keep us from God is the best way to assure that we will not abandon God. Clinging to ungodly distractions puts us at risk in our walk with God.

IN THESE DAYS OF TOLERANCE, ARE THERE THINGS WE SHOULD ABANDON?

Job 28:28 . . . This is what he says to all humanity: “The fear of the Lord is true wisdom; to forsake evil is real understanding.”

Ephesians 4:31 . . . Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of malicious behavior.

1 Peter 2:1 . . . Get rid of all malicious behavior and deceit. Don’t just pretend to be good! Be done with hypocrisy and jealousy and backstabbing.

Persistent sin will cause us to abandon God. Persistent godliness will cause us to abandon evil.

PROMISES FROM GOD: Hebrews 13:5 . . . “I will never fail you. I will never forsake you.” ABANDON

ABANDONING GOD

HOW CAN PEOPLE, ONCE THEY ARE AWARE OF GOD, EVEN CONSIDER ABANDONING HIM?

BIBLE READING: 2 Chronicles 12:1-16

KEY BIBLE VERSE: But when Rehoboam was firmly established and strong, he abandoned the law of the LORD, and all Israel followed him in this sin. (2 Chronicles 12:1)

REASONS WHY WE ABANDON GOD.

At the height of his popularity and power, the king abandoned the Lord. What happened? Often it is more difficult to be a believer in good times than in bad. Tough times push us toward God; but easy times can make us feel self-sufficient and self-satisfied. When everything is going right, guard your faith.

PERSONAL CONSEQUENCES WHEN WE ABANDON GOD.

Popularity and power, the two benefits that Rehoboam chose above God, were the first two things he lost when the Egyptians invaded the land. Through Rehoboam we discover the real price to be paid for rejecting God. Even though Rehoboam later confessed his sin, the damage had already been done. He was not destroyed, but much of what was precious to him was lost. His reign could have been as glorious as the golden shields in Solomon’s temple, which the Egyptians took. Instead, he had to settle for bronze replacements and an insignificant reign.

CONSEQUENCES FOR OTHERS WHEN WE ABANDON GOD.

We don't have to be a king, like Rehoboam, before our actions deeply affect the lives of others. Rehoboam's abandonment of God led to the humiliation of his people. How does the quality of your relationship with God affect those around you?

FEELING ABANDONED BY GOD

WHAT ABOUT WHEN OUR AWARENESS OF GOD IS WEAK OR HE SEEMS DISTANT AND REMOVED?

BIBLE READING: Exodus 2:11-22

KEY BIBLE VERSE: In time, Reuel gave Moses one of his daughters, Zipporah, to be his wife. Later they had a baby boy, and Moses named him Gershom, for he said, "I have been a stranger in a foreign land." (Exodus 2:21-22)

WE SHOULD NOT GIVE UP.

To escape punishment for killing an Egyptian, Moses ran away to the land of Midian. He became a stranger in a foreign land, separated from his home and family. Many years went by before Moses was once again ready to serve God. But he trusted God instead of fearing the king (Hebrews 11:27). We often feel abandoned or isolated because of things we have done. But when we are fearful or feeling separated, we should not give up. Moses didn't. He trusted God to deliver him in spite of his dark past and his seemingly bleak future.

BIBLE READING: Job 2:1-13

KEY BIBLE VERSE: So Satan left the LORD's presence, and he struck Job with a terrible case of boils from head to foot. (Job 2:7)

SUFFERING DOES NOT MEAN GOD HAS ABANDONED YOU.

At times believers may actually suffer more than unbelievers because those who follow God sometimes become Satan's special targets. Believers, therefore, may have to endure hardship, persecution, or testing. This was the case with Job. We must be prepared for Satan's attacks. When we suffer, we must not conclude that God has abandoned us. He did not abandon Job. Consistent faith is the way to defeat Satan.