

Which do you feel loved or hated by God?

In our lives we have seasons. There are seasons of change with seasons of good and seasons of bad. There are seasons we feel hated and times that drive you mad. Life has its changes life gets rearranged. In times of pain there seems to be no gain, is life driving you insane? Though times are at hand please understand, God is love, and God has a plan.

The Devil's plans were thwarted as God is victor. Plans changed the day Jesus said, not if mine will but if thine will be done. Even Jesus had to learn His ways were not God's ways. Yet in the end we realize God's ways were far superior than our own.

- 1.) What challenges do you face in life right now?

- 2.) What solutions do you have? Are there any solutions to your problems?

Perhaps the only solution to our problems were when you looked up to the blue sky or a star filled night. Knowing these words, "God has it all under control." how does that make you feel? Often we get overwhelmed by the troubles and hardships of life. We wonder, how can I make it through this one? Occasionally I ask the same question, how will I ever make it through this mess? Lives seem to hang in the balance as if we were weighed on the scales.

Discussion:

- 1.) Are problems ever a good thing?

- 2.) What do you do when facing a problem?

Job was a man who had a great challenge in his life. He was stated as being a: "man was perfect and upright, and one that feared God, and eschewed evil." Job 1:1. Job however was a persecuted man. Job's very name means: *hated* (that is, *persecuted*); *Ijob*, the patriarch famous for his patience: - Job. Who was the one who really hated Job?

Discussion:

- 1.) How do you feel when it seems your whole life is coming undone?

- 2.) What is your reaction when life seems to be getting you no where?

Perhaps it easy to think, “does God really care about me?” “Well does He,” you ask? As for me this has been an alarming question. I have had some serious questions for God as my whole life seems to be falling apart. It took some serious mind manipulation to get it figured out and here is the verdict. God does love me. I know God loves me because life is so rough. In the midst of a myriad of problems and things going wrong, God is love. God will always be love. Even when we are hurting inside because of loneliness, we can feel confident that God loves us with an everlasting love.

(Jer 31:3) The LORD hath appeared of old unto me, *saying*, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee.

The Bible furthermore states in a verse:

(1Jn 4:8) He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.

God loves you, and how do you know this is true? Jesus died for you. Not only did he simply die he laid his life down for his friends.

(Joh 10:15) *As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep.*

Who is the sheep. The sheep are those who are called. The sheep are named by the Father and you became part of the fold when you accepted Jesus as your savior. Knowing you are part of this fold how does it make you feel?

Discussion:

1.) How do you feel when you are loved?

2.) What do you think about this verse: **(1Jn 4:19)** We love him, because he first loved us.”

Jesus loved us before we even knew Him. It feels good to be loved. No one person not even Satan himself wants to be hated. Satan in his quest for love sought obeisance out of Adam and Eve. He wanted the love that was reserved for our Heavenly Father. In Satan's twisted mind, somehow he thought to himself, “if only they loved me like they loved their Father.” In an evil attempt to gain love Satan robbed God of the rightful worship thinking in his narcissistic mind, I want to be everything God is and more. Satan quite literally said to himself, **(Isa 14:13)** For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north.”

When facing the greatest challenges of life know Satan does not have authority over our lives. God has full authority over our lives. In scripture we see it was, “The fire of God is fallen from heaven, and hath burned up the sheep, and the servants, and consumed them; and I only am escaped alone to tell thee.” Job 1:16.

This may seem a hard pill to swallow but I have been dealing with this issue myself a lot lately. The issue is is suffering and I did not understand why. I was suffering at the hand of God and not the hand

of Satan. See God only gives Satan the authority to allow Satan to challenge us in life. Even in Jesus his life was not welcomed or hailed as king. All the people could think of was an earthly king to kick out the harsh Roman empire. At one point the Jewish nation tried to crown Jesus, but obviously for all the wrong reasons. Had the people of Jesus day accepted Jesus for who he was then he might still be reigning today on an earthly throne rather than a throne in Heaven. There is some prophecy about this earthly reign outlined in Ezekiel chapters 40-48 and also Isaiah 65:17-25. Perhaps we could have been living in this day and age right now.

Discussion:

- 1.) How would you feel if you found out the LORD not Satan allows our lives to be in a mess?

The Bible tells us in two verses:

(Isa 45:7) I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, and create evil: I the LORD do all these *things*.

(Isa 54:16) Behold, I have created the smith that bloweth the coals in the fire, and that bringeth forth an instrument for his work; and I have created the waster to destroy.

God allows the enemy Satan to get a hold of our lives, yet only for a season. Job's life was ruined for a season yet he saw a better end. Joseph was a righteous man thrown in prison for a long time for doing righteously. Abraham was promised the land of Canaan but never possessed it until someday after the coming kingdom. John the Baptist was thrown in prison for no wrong doing. The Apostle Paul was persecuted and cast into prison ultimately being beheaded for the Word of God. Isaiah was perhaps sawed in two by King Manasseh. What do you think of your life now seeing all these people suffered just as you did. We read of many people who suffered and died for stepping out in faith against a dark ages Pope only to be burned at the stake, frozen in the cold, imprisoned in hardships, or what of Galileo persecuted for creating the telescope and looking into the night's sky exposing God's truth. Who do you know that has ever been persecuted for doing what was righteously? Perhaps it was even you?

Discussion:

- 1.) How do you feel when you feel persecuted?

- 2.) Did you ever consider persecution was not from Satan but a gift of God's love?

When trials exist in life what should our attitude be? One answer is "gratitude." Our attitude should be that as of Job's life. "**(Job 13:15)** Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him: but I will maintain mine own ways before him." What about righteous Joseph when he finally forgave those that once cast him into the dry well. He ultimately forgave them. Jesus said to those crucifying him, "**(Luk 23:34)** Then said Jesus, **Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.** And they parted his raiment, and cast lots." In all things we are to "**(1Th 5:16)** Rejoice evermore." Furthermore our attitude should be that of thankfulness. "**(1Th 5:18)** In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." Thankfulness is golden and this is the way to God's heart. King David rejoiced in

tribulation as we should too.

Several Christians have learned from the saints that thankfulness is such an important element. Thankfulness moves mountains no shovel or bulldozer can even think of. Thankfulness is the glue to keep life together in tough times. In some of the hardest times of my life I learned to thank God and let God's love shine in the heat of battle.

So many do not want to hear that if we thank God for cancer, thank God for poverty, thank God the check never came in the mail, (or it was smaller than expected) and learn to thank God in season and out of season life will go smoothly like greased wheels on rails of iron. Next time life has you in the dumps remember and think what would Jesus do in my situation. Would he yell and complain or do something about his current situation. Say you are an internet marketer. Naturally I don't know of any nor would this be a fare example: You plan on search engine optimizing your site so it can be found. Checks just did not make it so plans change. Rather than burying your head in the sand you brush up on your knowledge from books you already purchased and get busy. Within days you find out you can do things that not even the most money could otherwise do. To your amazement within days you start seeing the results of your page tweaking and your web site is being found. Did God lie to you or treat you harshly. God knew your mom really needed a certain present and you ended up doing a far better job just by careful studies just like the books said you could do. The Bible says we are to: **“(1Th 5:17) Pray without ceasing.”**

When life gives you a pebble remember, it may have a new name on it. Also remember when life gives you a lemon try making lemonade.

Discussion:

- 1.) In the case problems do arise and not go away what is your attitude to be?

Your answer should be that of thankfulness. Just remember it is not because you are hated that you are suffering. **“(Pro 3:11-12) My son, despise not the chastening of the LORD; neither be weary of his correction: For whom the LORD loveth he correcteth; even as a father the son *in whom* he delighteth.”** Furthermore in the book of Peter it tells us: **“(1Pe 4:12) Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you:”**

Notes: