

GOD DELIGHTS

IN DOING GOOD TO ALL WHO HOPE IN HIM

FOR DISCUSSION

George Mueller's only child, his daughter Lydia, was on the brink of death from typhoid fever. He wrote,

"Of all the trials of faith that as yet I have had to pass through, this was the greatest; and by God's abundant mercy, I own it to His praise, I was enabled to delight myself in the will of God; for I felt perfectly sure, that, if the Lord took this beloved daughter, it would be best for her parents, best for herself, and more for the glory of God than if she lived: this better part I was satisfied with; and thus my heart had peace, perfect peace, and I had not a moment's anxiety."

When his wife died of rheumatic fever, he preached a funeral sermon from Psalm 119:68—The Lord was good and did good, in giving her to me; in so long leaving her to me; and in taking her from me.

Can these situations be part of God doing good to all who hope in Him? If so, why would God delight in doing these things?

ENCOUNTER READ GODS WORD SO THAT HE CAN SPEAK TO YOU

EXPLORE HIS WORD ASKING QUESTIONS OF WHAT YOU SAW.

1)

Though this was first given to Israel, here are *three promises to us* because they are for the people of the "new covenant" (Jeremiah 31:31-34).

Read Jeremiah 32:39-41 and explain what each promise means.

A. God will not turn away from doing you good

B. God is eager to bless—He talks the initiative, always and forever

C. He will do this with all his heart and with all his soul

2)

Read Zephaniah 3:17. Do you believe God will sing over you? Is it too good to believe?

- “I am too guilty. Unworthy. My sin is too great. God could never rejoice over me.” What does Zephaniah 3:15 say to this?
- “There are too many people who will never let me believe this.” (What does Zephaniah 3:15, 17, 19 say to this?)
- “He is great and holy. I am small—a nobody.” What does Zephaniah 3:15, 17 say to this?

[“The very greatness that makes him seem too far to be near, is the greatness that enables him to do whatever he pleases, including being near to me.”]

- “I am the victim and slave or shame—put down too many times by too many people.” What does Zephaniah 3:19 and Hebrews 4:15 say to this?
- “How could God take infinite pleasure in His own glory and still get so excited about me?” What does Zephaniah 3:12 say to this?

3)

Read Luke 15:10-24. Why would God want to sing over you?

4)

Read Isaiah 57:15; James 4:6, 8; Psalm 147:10-11. What is the one condition for God to rejoice over you?

- How do you fear and hope in the Lord at the same time?

[“The fear of God is what is left of the storm when you have a safe place to watch right in the middle of it”]

- Why does God delight in those who fear and hope at the same time? What does this say about you and about him?

GOING FURTHER

One thing we can do to train ourselves to remember, is to memorize a part of what our Father has said to us. The Holy Spirit can use this to change our thinking so that our “heads” are more like Jesus.

This week, memorize Zephaniah 3:17.