

God Never Quits On Us

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All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise noted, are from the King James Version. Italics for emphasis are ours.

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INTRODUCTION

Have you ever considered someone a lost cause?

Perhaps, you know of a family member or a once-close friend who has drifted far away from you and has wound up enmeshed in a web of sin and defeat. On a human level, you cannot see any hope for reclamation.

But God does not see as a man sees. His eternal view is always one that has Redemption in focus. Those who find themselves battered and beaten by life can turn to the Father and run into His loving arms. He never gives up on anyone. Failure is never final with Him.

As we will see in this booklet, the burdens that we carry are to be laid at the feet of Jesus. He is the One who bore our sins upon His body at Calvary. There, at the Cross, He became our substitute, paying the penalty for the sins of the whole world, once and for all. Oh, what a Savior! Oh, what He has done for us. With that in mind,

how can we think that He could ever give up on anyone?

Chapter One

GOD CARES FOR THE BROKEN AND THE BRUISED

“And it came to pass after these things, that God did tempt Abraham, and said unto him, Abraham: and he said, Behold, here I am.

“And he said, Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of.

“And Abraham rose up early in the morning, and saddled his ass, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son, and clave the wood for the burnt offering, and rose up, and went unto the place of which God had told him.

“Then on the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes, and saw the place afar off.

“And Abraham said unto his young men, Abide ye here with the ass; and I and the lad

will go yonder and worship, and come again to you,

“And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering, and laid it upon Isaac his son; and he took the fire in his hand, and a knife; and they went both of them together.

“And Isaac spake unto Abraham his father, and said, My father: and he said, Here am I, my son. And he said, Behold the fire and the wood: but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?

“And Abraham said, My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering: so they went both of them together” (Genesis 22:1-11).

“A bruised reed shall he not break, and the smoking flax shall he not quench: he shall bring forth judgment unto truth” (Isaiah 42:3).

Isaiah 42:3 is an amazing verse. Jesus repeats it in Matthew 12:20. It speaks of a person who is at his weakest, one who is weak as weak can be, but one whom the Lord regards with such loving care.

God will not give up on anyone until He sends judgment into victory. This means that a person who is staggering and stagnating in self-defeat, wallowing in a sad state of self-destruction, will not be snuffed out, and he will not be crushed to the point where he cannot be used.

“I will not break what is left of this one,” God declares. “There is not much left of him right now. Still, I cannot break what is left. I will stand in my patience and longsuffering. I will not be on your case. I am not going to hurt you prematurely with anything that I do.”

The reed was something used by the shepherd boys in the fields. They would take this hollow plant from the marshes and poke holes in the stalk. It was flute-like in the way it produced sounds. The shepherd boys would use these reeds to sound out the call to the animals in their charge. Once the reed was bruised, however, it could not make the right kind of sound, so it was tossed away.

God does not treat His people this way when they have been damaged. A reed pulled up from the ground cannot be repaired, but God does not throw away bruised and hurting people. “I will not break this one,” the Lord says.

A Cause for Celebration

The prodigal son, in Luke 15, was wounded and wasted. But, when he turned and headed home, his father ran to meet him. That is how God the Father responds to everyone who turns to Him in brokenness. “I will race to meet him. I

will show My love for him and celebrate his return. I will not, in anyway, consider him as anything less than My son. I will be so proud to have him back. He may want to be treated as a servant, but I will have none of that. He will be My son and serve with me as a son, with all of the family privileges.”

Then we have the example of a smoking flax, such as the wick of a candle when it has burnt way down into the puddle of wax. There is just a tiny spark of fire left in it, and its smoke is starting to fill the room. It keeps flickering and flickering. The wax threatens to smother it, and it is almost all the way out. With the image of a smouldering flax, the Word of God reveals that He will not quench the flame in any believer’s life—even if there is just a flicker of hope left. Instead, He will make sure that doctrine finds its way to being truth in their heart. God will do all that He can do to get the one who has fallen to discover the truth about forgiveness.

This how God relates to weak people. Believers who are frail and weak are as bruised reeds and smoking flax. We do not have to be worried about people. God will not quench the smoking flax. God will not let the light of the believer go all the way out. The Holy Spirit speaks

to the heart, and all of a sudden, the spark springs back into a flame. Jesus Christ makes sure that we make it.

Chapter Two

GOD'S FORGIVENESS GOES ALL THE WAY

"Take heed to yourselves: If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him.

"And if he trespass against thee seven times in a day, and seven times in a day turn again to thee, saying, I repent; thou shalt forgive him.

"And the apostles said unto the Lord, Increase our faith.

"And the Lord said, If ye had faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye might say unto this sycamine tree, Be thou plucked up by the root, and be thou planted in the sea; and it should obey you" (Luke 17:3-6).

Unfortunately, we do not always relate to people in this way. We want others to get what they deserve. We say that the Bible is true and that we agree with every word of it, yet we do not believe that we should forgive someone if

they do the same thing to us seven times in a day. Perhaps you are thinking, “Boy, I don’t know if I would want to go to church with people like that. They would be getting away with all kinds of things.” Well, I have given you chapter and verse. This is the Bible we are quoting!

Actually, few Christians operate by every word of God. Still, the most beautiful thing in the world is that eternal life is just that—it is eternal. What comes from the life of God is eternal. Forgiveness, therefore, is an eternal state of being forgiven. Grace is an eternal state of reigning with Christ. Love is an eternal state of carrying on the divine program of God until you have grown in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ and make it. These precepts are all Scriptural. The sad thing is that, day in and day out, the Scriptures are taken conditionally and not unconditionally.

In Genesis 22, God spoke to Abraham. His instructions were plain: “Take Isaac, the wood, and the beast of burden. Then, go to Mount Moriah and offer Isaac as a burnt offering.” In the past, I always considered the wood as standing for humanity. But the truth of Genesis 22:6 is that the wood speaks of our sin.

Every single one of us stands before the Holy

God. We are as beasts of burden and our sin is upon us. Jesus Christ leads us slowly—just as slowly as Abraham led the beast, the wood, and his son to Mount Moriah.

Here they were, traveling along. The beast, burdened down with the wood, saw some water, but he could not go to it to drink because he had to go on, carrying his load. Perhaps he saw some green grass, and he would have liked to stop and graze. He could not stop, however, because of the weight upon him. The burden must be borne.

No Rest for the Burdened

The Christian who is weighed down by his burdens cannot enjoy the still waters. He cannot bring himself to rest in green pastures, which speak of God's mercies. There are so many burdens on his back, and he needs to recognize that he does not need to carry them. They belong to the Lord. David recognized this in the twenty-third Psalm: "He *makes* me to lie down in green pastures."

Closer and closer, Abraham and Isaac drew near to Mount Moriah and the moment of truth. They were going on together all the way.

In the same manner, God the Father and the

Son went all the way to Calvary. They were in total fellowship until the Father had to place all the sins of the world upon His Son. Under the terms set forth in the determinate counsel of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, before the foundation of the world (Acts 2:23), all of the terrible sins of the world became Christ's sins. He bore all of our sins upon that Cross, though He had never committed a sin of His own.

As soon as Abraham and Isaac got to Mount Moriah, the burden of wood was released. This is exactly what happens to us. We struggle along with burden upon burden, problem upon problem. Then, we get to the Cross. We get to the place of supreme sacrifice, and all the burdens of our heart are rolled away. No more are we weighed down. All of the sins are removed from us, and they are place upon the altar of God.

Chapter Three

CALVARY RECONCILES
OUR DEBT

“And they came to the place which God had told him of; and Abraham built an altar there, and laid the wood in order, and bound Isaac his son, and laid him on the altar upon the wood.

“And Abraham stretched forth his hand, and took the knife to slay his son.

“And the angel of the LORD called unto him out of heaven, and said, Abraham, Abraham: and he said, Here am I.

“And he said, Lay not thine hand upon the lad, neither do thou any thing unto him: for now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son from me.

“And Abraham lifted up his eyes, and looked, and behold behind him a ram caught in a thicket by his horns: and Abraham went and took the ram, and offered him up for a burnt offering in the stead of his son.

“And Abraham called the name of that place Jehovahjireh: as it is said to this day, In the mount of the LORD it shall be seen.

“And the angel of the LORD called unto Abraham out of heaven the second time,

“And said, By myself have I sworn, saith the LORD, for because thou hast done this thing, and hast not withheld thy son, thine only son:

“That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies;

“And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice” (Genesis 22:9-18).

Isaac was on the altar, and Abraham lifted the knife. Then, God spoke out. “No, Abraham. Don’t touch Isaac. There is a substitute, a ram in the thicket.” The ram was offered up in the place of the lad.

This is what Jesus Christ has done for the sins of the world. The wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23). Jesus Christ died once for them all. He became the Substitute. Paying the price, He settled the debts He did not owe. He carried those sins away.

Think of it! Think of the adultery and the drunkenness. Think of all the terrible, unnecessary problems that destroy relationships and marriages. Marriages do not make it because couples do not bring their burdens to Calvary to be reconciled.

Calvary is the place of reconciliation. Calvary is the place where our sins were paid for, forever. Every single one of them was nailed to the Tree. Calvary is the place where we were made clean, the place where the burdens of our heart are rolled away. We can go to Calvary and go home, free, with no wood on our backs. We no longer have to live as beasts of burden weighed down by the wood of our failures.

We Walk Home Free

The burden of sin is no longer on us. Jesus took all the burdens and we walk home free! Perhaps you were weak as a smoking flax. Your light was just about to go out. You felt so defeated that you believed you could not make it. But all the sins have been removed from you. Now you can come to Calvary and you can go away without a single thing upon your back.

The love of God takes care of it all. No matter what people may remember, God remembers

none of it. No matter what anyone else does, God forgives and forgets. The Lord Jesus comes on the scene and says, "Instead of legalism and condemnation, I will turn judgment into commendation through the preciousness of Calvary. When you leave the Cross, you will no longer be this, that, or the other thing. You will be set free, and you will be free indeed."

God planned it, the Son accomplished it, the Holy Spirit reveals it, and the Word of God declares it. A bruised reed, He will not break. A smoking flax, He will not quench. God provided the perfect Substitute, and we have been set free and made clean by the Blood of the Lamb.

CONCLUSION

God's work is a work of Redemption. It is a work of cleansing and purging. It is a work of forgiving and a work of forgetting. Christ's work on the Cross is the work of transferring all of those ugly sins and weaknesses onto the Messiah.

The Father takes them directly from us and lays them upon His Son. The wood that was upon Isaac, the wood that speaks of sin, is lifted off. There is no longer any burden. The sacrifice of the Substitute took care of it all, and God determines that He will never leave us nor forsake us. He will not quit on us.

The Blood of Christ made a way for us. Nadab and Abihu offered strange fire to God, and they died as a result (Leviticus 10:1-2). There was no blood in their offering. At the Passover, in Exodus, the blood had to be on the doorposts. We look to the Blood that God has applied to the doorposts of our hearts. We look to that and see

nothing but forgiveness and cleansing. We are not forgiven and then left in our old condition, but we are perfectly cleansed, with no stain to mark us.

Backsliders can be reconciled and restored in an instant. God never quits on them. The price of their salvation was much too high for Him to turn away. Praise God that once and for all, in Christ, we are saved, forgiven, and cleansed.