

The Context of Life

Introduction

- A. If we are to live successfully we must recognize truth – reality. One set of truths that are very important has to do with the context of our life.
- B. To violate truth is to make success impossible. How clearly we see this in science or medicine – but how blind we are to the same principle in spiritual things.
- C. What is the context of our daily life? Think carefully about the following truths. Are you living so you violate them in attitude, thought, speech, or actions?

I. The Sovereignty of God: *"... Him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will."* Eph. 1:11

This verse simply states that God is in control of all things and is using everything to work out His plan. It is not possible to rationally explain everything that happens to our satisfaction. One reason for this is that we have only a small part of the plan. We must affirm, however, that God is in control.

II. The Goodness of God: *"Thou art good and doest good "* Psalm 119:68

Here we are told that God in His character is holy, righteous, just, love, and truth. This means that God is good and what He does is goodness. We must not accept the error that He is not good.

III. The Provision of God: *"I have blessed you with all spiritual blessings in and through Jesus Christ."* Eph. 1:3

When Jesus Christ came into our life He brought every good thing with Him. Every believer has been given all the benefits of all the redemptive grace of God. We cannot earn them. To have the experience of such benefits, however, we must live in harmony with the truths related to the benefits. This is how it works in all the other areas of life.

IV. The Promises of God: *"I will never leave you." "I will supply all your need." "I will work everything in your life for your good if you let Me."* Heb. 13:5; Phil. 4:19; Rom. 8:28

These are very personal promises given to every believer. God has not made such statements to mock us. Because God is truth and therefore faithful – He upholds His Word. If, however, we do not believe Him and therefore do not cooperate with Him – we keep the promise from becoming a part of our daily experience.

- V. The Plan of God: *"I want you to love Me, to enjoy Me, and to live with My peace in your life. To accomplish this I will work with you every day to conform you to the Lord Jesus."*
Gal. 5:22 Rom. 8:28,29

God has planned the very best for us. Conformity to Jesus Christ is far more important than being healthy, wealthy, wise, or contented. If God would give us only health, money, wisdom, and peace – it would be the greatest insult we could receive – because we are spiritual people. In our better moments we recognize the value of spiritual truths.

- VI. The Counsel of God: *"I do not want you to be anxious about anything. When you have a problem, or feel anxious, come to Me and tell Me – being thankful – and My peace will keep your heart and mind."* Phil. 4:8,7

The verses should overwhelm us, not only in the thoughtful and loving provision they describe – and how God understands our need – but because we are so guilty for living with anxiety and not coming to Him. We are so prone to go to one another – and even the psychiatrist (where it's more than a dollar a minute!) but we so rarely go to God believing this promise. Perhaps the place to begin is to confess our guilt of unbelief.

HOW ARE WE TO RESPOND TO THIS CONTEXT OF OUR LIFE?

1. We must choose to believe God – whether we feel it or not. Say it out loud in the presence of God. "Heavenly Father, I believe Your Word. I make the decision to live as a believer in spite of how I feel. I affirm that You are the God of Truth – and Your Word is the Truth."
2. We must choose to affirm our belief -- no matter how we feel -- or how bad things become. Go through the six points listed above and make clear-cut affirmations about each one of them. Use the verses in your affirmation. A sample affirmation would be as follows:

Heavenly Father, I believe that You are the sovereign God. I hereby affirm that You are in charge of all things and can turn everything for my good and Your glory as I learn to cooperate with You. I believe You and Your Word because You said You " ... worketh all things after the counsel of Your own will."

3. Take the time to go through each of the six points each day for one week. After that put my paper aside and make your own affirmations.

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