

The Reality and Practicality of Divine Intervention (2)

Introduction

A. God delights in doing that which appears to man to be impossible. Many of His promises clearly imply that He wants us to trust Him in situations and problems in which there is no hope.

B. Scattered through the Bible are many records of God's intervention into the lives of His people. The conjunction "But" is often used to indicate such manifestations of God's grace.

I. "But God In Spite Of Human Inability, Matthew 19:24-26.

And again I say unto you, It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God. When His disciples heard it, they were exceedingly amazed, saying, Who then can be saved? But Jesus beheld them, and said unto them, With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.

Observation: The disciples immediately recognized that no one can earn the right to enter Heaven by good works. If this were possible then Jesus Christ Himself would have given a list to us. Salvation can only be received – it is totally the work of God. We can only receive His gift by receiving Jesus Christ as Savior.

II. "But God . . ." In Spite Of Human Priorities, Luke 12:18-20.

And he said, This will I do, I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years, take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry. But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee, then whose shall those things be which thou has provided?

Observation: Those things upon which we spend so much time and effort are often of little value before God. Many men have planned for years to execute a grudge. This rich farmer put all his value upon this life and tried to store it in his barns. God placed His value upon the man's soul. He called him a "fool". He had failed to use this life to glorify God and prepare for eternity.

III. "But God . . ." In Spite of Satanic Plans, Luke 22:31,32.

And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat. But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not, and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.

Observation: Peter believed too much in his own strength. He firmly trusted in the strength of his love for Jesus Christ. The other men on the team may fail – but not he. He was proud in being certain of his strength. All of this gave Satan ground in his life. The Lord Jesus allowed Satan to test Peter so His disciple could see that the strength in his life was found in God – not in himself.

IV. "But God . . ." In Spite of Human Frailty, John 14:26.

But the Comforter, which is the Holy Spirit, Whom the Father will send in My name, He shall teach you all things and bring all things to your remembrance whatsoever I have said unto you.

Observation: In these chapters we read how He told His disciples of His departure through His sacrificial death. He had already told them they were to represent Him. They could not understand why He would leave them. The job ahead was staggering. The Lord Jesus spoke to their frailty and promised the Holy Spirit their Helper.

V. "But God ..." In Spite of The Death of Jesus Christ, Acts 13:28-30.

And though they found no cause of death in Him, yet desired they Pilate that he should be slain. And when they had fulfilled all that was written of Him, they took Him down from the tree and laid Him in a sepulchre. But God raised Him from the dead.

Observation: On the surface this looked like the greatest failure of all time. God had sent His Son into the world and had allowed Him to die! In permitting the Lord Jesus to die and then to raise Him from the dead – God demonstrated His presence and power as He could in no other way. Christianity is built over an empty tomb.

VI. "But God . . ." In Spite of Human Sin, Romans 5:8.

But God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

Observation: We should be eternally grateful that God loved us in spite of our sin. Love is an action. God not only said to us "I love you" He put that love into action in coming into the world to die as our Substitute on the Cross. The preposition "for" in this verse means "in place of".

VII. "But God . . ." In Spite of Temptation, I Cor. 10:13.

There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man, but God is faithful. Who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able, but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.

Observation: All of us undergo serious temptation. In the midst of such pressure to fail – God promises to keep us. He is faithful.

VIII. "But God . . ." In Spite of Human Need, Philippians 4:19.

But my God shall supply all your need, according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

Observation: The people at Philippi had sent Paul a sacrificial gift to help him during his time in prison. They had sought to glorify God by helping His servant. Paul here reminds them and us of a comforting Biblical principle. God has promised to meet our need – if we will be willing to honor Him in our daily lives.

Conclusion: Let's trust God for His intervention into our lives.