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Trusting God for the unknown future

Corrie Ten Boom wrote,

“Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God.”

You may know about her, that her entire family was arrested and sent to a concentration camp during World War II for hiding Jews from the Nazis, and that she was the only member of her family to survive. She wrote some of her story in a book, *The Hiding Place*.



None of us know what events will cross our path today, tomorrow, or any day of our journey here on earth. The unexpected pleasant events may surprise us, but we can embrace them. It's the others that can trigger fear and panic.

- As I write this the middle east is sitting on the knife's edge of war.
- News from the doctor can shock and shake you to the core.
- Strained, shattered relationships can bring deep pain.
- Carefully made plans can be torn to shreds in an instant by unforeseen events.
- The job you love can suddenly, unexpectedly be terminated.

None of us know what events will cross our path today, tomorrow, or any day of our journey here on earth.

So what do we do, how do we respond in light of our unknown future? How do we keep from being victims instead of being victors?

Drawing on Corrie Ten Boom again, she tells us,

“If you look at the world you'll be distressed. If you look within, you'll be depressed. If you look at God, you will be at rest.”

There is truth in her words, not from optimism, but from what the Bible tells us about God and ourselves. God tells us to trust Him for the unknown future.

Most of us are acquainted with Job, and the Old Testament book that tells us something about his life. The book opens with a description of his wealth but, more importantly, that he “was blameless,

upright, fearing God and turning away from evil.” In rapid succession he lost all his wealth, children and health. Yet “despite all this, [he] did not sin, nor did he blame God.” The forty-two chapters of the book show us that he experienced deep pain on all levels, that he agonized over deep questions about what happened, about himself, about his would-be comforters, and about God. But he kept his focus on God, he kept in touch with God, he kept moving forward with God. In chapter 23 he points us to the starting place for not being victims, for living with hope and certainty while we live in this world with the unknown future,

“But [God] is unchangeable, and who can turn him back? What he desires, that he does. For he will complete what he appoints for me, and many such things are in his mind.” (verses 13-14, ESV)

God is sovereign. God is in control. God has plans for us that He will complete.

Let’s couple that with a handful of clear statements about God and ourselves from Scripture that relate to every aspect of our lives, including living with an uncertain future.

- Job 49:2. “I know that [God] can do all things, and that no plan is impossible for You.”
- Jeremiah 29:11. “‘For I know the plans that I have for you,’ declares the LORD, ‘plans for prosperity and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.’”
- Psalm 112:7. “[the righteous person] will not fear bad news; his heart is steadfast, trusting in the LORD.”
- Proverbs 3:5-6. “Trust in the LORD with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight.”
- Isaiah 58:11. “the LORD will continually guide you, and satisfy your desire in scorched places, and give strength to your bones; and you will be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water whose waters do not fail.”

Trust God for the unknown future.

Remember the words of the old song,

I don’t know about tomorrow, I just live from day to day. I don’t borrow from its sunshine for its skies may turn to gray. I don’t worry o’er the future, for I know what Jesus said, and today I’ll walk beside Him for He knows what is ahead.

Many things about tomorrow I don’t seem to understand, but I know who holds tomorrow, and I know who holds my hand.

Pastor Lyle