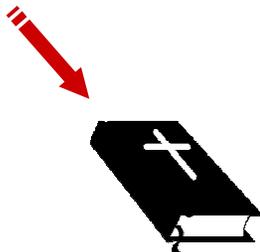
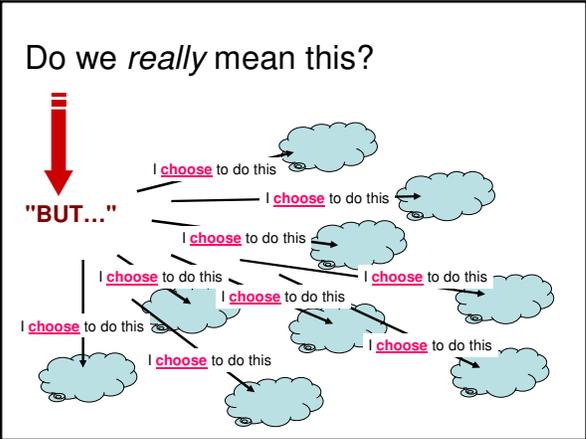
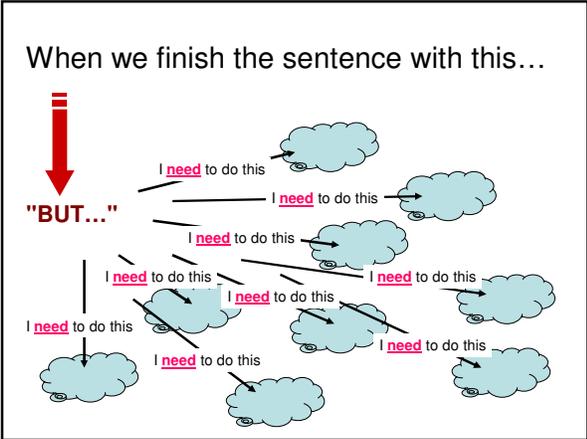


Assurance of Salvation  
Part 28

Love for God  
(#9)

"I know I should spend more time learning and applying this..."

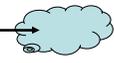



Few people are actually *forced* to neglect the Bible!

"I need to do this, instead" → 

= Often a lie, since it implies we don't have a choice.

Instead, it's a CHOICE, an expression of VALUES and PRIORITIES.

"I choose to do this, instead" → 

= Normally the truthful way of saying it, especially when our choices are made during our "free time"!

Our #1 OBLIGATION in life:

**"You must love the Lord your God  
– with all your heart,  
– with all your soul,  
– with all your mind,  
– and with all your strength."**

- Jesus (Mark 12:30)

In other words:

**"You must love God with all  
your 'everything.' "**

## GENUINE love for God

– if it exists –

**WILL BE EVIDENCED BY OUR  
VALUES AND CHOICES**

- We will want all things to be done in a way that:
  - honors God.
  - reflects his goodness and grace.

## GENUINE love for God:

ASPECT #2 – A desire for God to be  
glorified in all things

- **By our actions**
  - Human responsibility.
- **By our attitude**
  - Our response to God's PROVIDENCE  
(a manifestation of his sovereignty).

THIS WEEK

Glorifying God by our attitude...

### WHEN?

- When things are going well.
  - **This is easy.**
- When things are not going well.
  - **This is NOT easy.**

Glorifying God by our attitude...

### WHEN?

- When things are going well.
  - **This ~~X~~ easy.**
- When things are not going well.
  - **This is NOT easy.**

**CORRECTION: This  
is NOT easy, either!**

Having a GODLY attitude in  
GOOD circumstances

### WHY IS IT SO DIFFICULT?

- **DISTRACTIONS**
  - When things are going well, we tend to take our eyes OFF God!
  - The things of this world begin to distract us.
- **MISPLACED TRUST**
  - We often begin trusting in our own abilities.
  - We become complacent in our faithfulness to God.

What Israel did was typical of people in *any* age.

(It's a natural part of sinful human nature.)

But when you had eaten and were satisfied, then you became proud and forgot me.

(Hosea 13:6 NLT)



**Food was often used to represent ALL of their many blessings.**



God even warned them *IN ADVANCE* that they would do it.

(This verse was A WARNING about their future rebellion.)

But Israel soon became fat and unruly; the people grew heavy, plump, and stuffed! Then they abandoned the God who had made them; they made light of the Rock of their salvation.

(Deut. 32:15 NLT)

Church-goers are not immune to it.

You say, 'I am rich. I have everything I want. I don't need a thing!' And you don't realize that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked.

(Rev. 3:17 NLT)



**Jesus was NOT in these people. He was on the OUTSIDE, asking to be let in!**



**We may thank God for our blessings...**

but do we REALLY focus on God... or on the blessings?



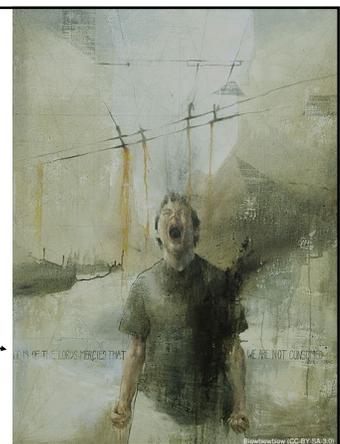
Having a **GODLY** attitude in **BAD** circumstances

**WHY IS IT SO DIFFICULT?**

- **SIN**
  - Our sin and other people's sin.
- **"TIME AND CHANCE"**
  - Random problems that occur in the world.

Circumstances may make us feel like this...

- But the "fine print" keeps us going (if we are among those who love God).



## A closer look at the "fine print"



It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed,  
because his compassions fail not.

(Lament. 3:22 KJV)

## Job illustrates a good attitude\* in a "worst case scenario"

- Job's response, when things weren't going his way:

The Lord has given,  
and the Lord has taken away!  
May the name of the Lord be praised."

(Job 1:21b GW)

\* (Though he *did* have questions and made some *wrong* responses, he *did NOT* abandon this attitude.)

## Asaph, a musician in King David's day, also understood this.

- He experienced some major difficulties in life and almost\* gave up.

But as for me, my feet had almost slipped;  
I had nearly lost my foothold.  
For I envied the arrogant when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.

(Psalm 73:2-3 NIV)

\* IMPORTANT: "**ALMOST**" is the key word. "Almost"... but he DIDN'T!

When Asaph considered the end results,  
he changed his attitude:

## He trusted in the sovereign God.\*

Those who are far from you will perish;  
you destroy all who are unfaithful to you.

But as for me, it is good to be near God.  
I have made the **Sovereign Lord** my refuge;  
I will tell of all your deeds.

(Psalm 73:27-28 NIV)

\* (Though he did not have Romans 8:28 in print, he **KNEW** the truth it describes.)

## Habakkuk, who witnessed the destruction of Jerusalem, ...

He also trusted and rejoiced in the sovereign God.\*

Though the fig tree does not bud  
and there are no grapes on the vines,  
though the olive crop fails  
and the fields produce no food,  
though there are no sheep in the pen  
and no cattle in the stalls,  
yet I will rejoice in the Lord,  
I will be joyful in God my Savior.  
The **Sovereign Lord** is my strength;  
he makes my feet like the feet of a deer,  
he enables me to go on the heights.

(Habakkuk 3:17-19 NIV)

\* (Though he did not have Romans 8:28 in print, he **KNEW** the truth it describes.)

When we need encouragement, we should consider the faithful people of the past – the great "cloud of witnesses" (Heb. 12:1).

- Whether circumstances were pleasant or unpleasant, they **LOVED GOD** and ***circumstances could not change it!***

## WHEN THINGS WENT WELL...

They continued to trust  
the God they loved.

Through faith they conquered kingdoms, did what God approved, and received what God had promised.

They shut the mouths of lions, put out raging fires, and escaped death.

They found strength when they were weak. They were powerful in battle and defeated other armies.

Women received their loved ones back from the dead.

(Hebrews 11:33-35a GW)

## WHEN THINGS DIDN'T GO WELL...

They continued to trust  
the God they loved.

Other believers were brutally tortured but refused to be released so that they might gain eternal life.

Some were made fun of and whipped, and some were chained and put in prison.

Some were stoned to death, sawed in half, and killed with swords.

Some wore the skins of sheep and goats. Some were poor, abused, and mistreated. The world didn't deserve these good people.

Some wandered around in deserts and mountains and lived in caves and holes in the ground.

(Hebrews 11:35b-38 GW)

## YOUR MISSION (1): SELF-EVALUATION

- What matters most to you?
- What is your attitude toward God when things are going well?
- What is your attitude toward God when things are NOT going well?

## YOUR MISSION (2): CHANGE

- What does the Bible say about your attitude and values?
- This week, focus on the areas of life where you need to repent.

## YOUR MISSION (3): REMEMBER

- If you **LOVE** God:  
You **WILL** want to do these things!
- If you **DON'T** love God:  
You **WON'T** do these things.

(That's why "love for God" is a **PROOF** of salvation.)

## Credits (1)

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