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apologize for the lateness of this Newsletter, but I was, first of all, racing a deadline to complete my latest book. And then I was on the road. But now I'm home, relaxing before my next trip, and am sitting down to write. I know first hand that the enemy is working overtime. He knows his time is short and he's racing God's clock. But I also know that OUR God is still on the throne! He is alive and well, and I know how this story ends! We, dear friends, are on the Winner's side! "If God be for us, who can be against us?"

No Contest

Some people believe that God and Satan were in some kind of contest and that Job was merely a pawn. That is not the case! First of all, God and Satan are not equals! And when we dig into this book, we see that God's intent and purposes extended far beyond anything Satan could have ever comprehended. The book of Job contains 42 chapters, but Satan bowed out in Chapter 2. He was defeated. Satan had said that Job would curse God to His face (1:11, 2:5). In other words, Satan said he would get Job to sin with his lips. We see in 2:10, however, that Satan became a defeated foe. He had done his best, but still "Job sinned not with his lips." Satan made his departure at this point—yet Job continued to suffer. This was no contest! God had a wonderful purpose for it all.

A dear young sister once asked this question: "But what if what's happening to me is of the devil? What if it's not from God?" It does not matter. If it is something that the devil has laid on us—some opposition put in our path to delay or even to destroy us—it does not matter, because the Lord has allowed it and has a wonderful purpose for it. As we just observed by our study of Job, God and Satan are not opposing forces. One is not god of the light and the other, god of the darkness. Satan is under God's control. Satan has no power except what God allows.

Think about this—God knew our mistakes from the beginning. And He has already made provision for them. Does He not know the ending from the beginning? Is He not omniscient? But you see what happens is that we mess up, make a whopper of a mistake. And although God has already planned for it and is working it out to our good, along comes the enemy of our souls. "You really blew it this time. It's over for you!"

You cringe under the accusation. You stammer, "But I've repented. It's under the blood."

The enemy smirks. "Even the blood can't cover this one! It's too late for that. You repented too late. It's all over."

And on and on he goes accusing us. He is, after all, the accuser of the brethren. One day he will be cast down. Until then, however, we are going to have to remain vigilant. We are going to have to refuse the accusations. We are going to have to know God's Word and stand upon it.

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One day a few years back, God sent me on a mission to a nearby town. He had prepared a certain person's heart to hear and receive the truth, and as I prepared to go, the enemy started opposing the mission. First one thing and then another, and finally a flat tire! If I had only known then what I know now—I could have enjoyed the delay! I could have spent the time in praise and worship instead of worry and frustration. I could have had a thankful heart that He was preventing an accident, or keeping His hand on me in some other way. As it was, I grumbled and complained and got all stressed out.

His timing is not our timing; His ways are not our way; His thoughts are not our thoughts. We do not have to understand. All we have to do is trust that God is in control, and that He is behind the scenes working everything out to our good.

I have learned many times since then that if we will praise God for a bad situation, His power will enter into it. If it is something from the enemy, our praise and worship will override the enemy's intentions. The evil power will be transformed, and the situation will be turned around to fit into God's original plan.

Thank God for God! Thank God that He has a plan! For me! For you! For us!

God bless you,
Your friend,
Lynda Allison Doty

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