

What I have Learned

When I first heard about Christina's death my first thoughts were, One of my children from Ava is gone. Why did this happen?

I remember asking that when my Mom's Dad died. I was only 9 years old. I still ask the question and hear it asked. I can't pull the wool over your eyes and tell you I have all the answers because I don't.

However, I have learned some things through the years. I have learned that God cares more about us than anything on earth. I have learned that most of the time it's not a direct blame on God, it's an indirect blame. It's not as though God DID this, but that He allowed it! The question comes in the form, "How could God ALLOW this to happen?"

I have learned that the book of Job does not answer that question, but it does ask the question. Not only did Job lose all that he had, and not only one of his children, but all of his children and here's his response:

Job 1:20-22 Then Job arose, tore his robe, and shaved his head; and he fell to the ground and worshiped. And he said: "Naked I came from my mother's womb, And naked I will depart. The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; Blessed be the name of the LORD." In all this Job did not sin nor charge God with wrong.

Some people would say to that, "So what? So, Job felt like worshipping. I feel like holding my fist in the face of God and cursing Him!"

So, another thing I've learned in the face of death is that we are always trying to figure it out, always trying to explain it, always trying to make some conclusion. If we can't, we get angry. Some people get angry with God, some people get angry with the person who died, some get angry with themselves, like it is their own fault, or with someone else who may have been involved in the situation. It's as though we think if there is someone to blame it will make it better, but it doesn't and it never does.

In that same book of Job, there were a lot of questions and a lot of blame going on there by Job and His wife and friends. What no one knew in that story was that there was something going on behind the scenes. Satan was challenging God. And, yes, "**God allowed things to happen!**"

God allowed bad things to happen to a good man, the best in all the earth. According to God's own words, "*there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil.*" **Job 1:8**

So we ask, "HOW could God DO that?" and we forget the rest of the scenario that **God also protected Job!** Even in the midst of all of the terrible things that were going on God said, "*all that he has is in your power; only do not lay a hand on his person.*" Another statement God made later to Satan was "*Behold, he (Job) is in your hand, but spare his life.*"

It was SATAN that was doing all the damage, not God! Satan brought death into this world. Satan has deceived us and is the Father of liars. Satan points his evil finger at God and blames God for what **HE** (Satan) has done! That's similar to a killer killing people then blaming the police for not stopping him! Do you blame the police?

I wonder how old Job's seven sons and three daughters were when Satan took their lives! SEVEN SONS and THREE DAUGHTERS! Satan would have us believe God allowed it to happen, and forget there's more to the story, **God protected Job!**

The story was not really about the children being lost or the financial disaster that occurred or the material possessions that were destroyed. Those things happened because the story was about JOB! The point was "God would NOT ALLOW the worst to happen to Job!"

"Job" is about us, we are the survivors, those who are left behind to deal with the problems. The story is about how Satan wants to hurt us so we won't listen to God. And we DO hurt! We hurt because we will not see Christina anymore. We will not hear her sweet laughter. We will not embrace her.

I went to the Harding Lectureships a few weeks ago and saw her there. I was actually waiting for Mandy, my daughter when Christina appeared. She said, "Andy?" I turned and looked into her smiling face and she said, "You were supposed to be waiting at the fountain." I said, "O that's right" So, I headed that way and she said, "Andy?" And I turned and looked back at her and she said, "Aren't you going to give me a hug?" "Of course," I said. She was supposed to meet us for lunch, but never showed up. She must have been busy!

I am told she had a wonderful weekend last weekend with family and friends. That's good to hear that she left on a good note. Satan stopped us from ever seeing her again on earth. But God has provided a place for her and for all who trust Him with their lives.

I have also learned that if we don't blame God, we question God. I have heard so many people say, "It should have been me!" "Why didn't God take me instead?" But I want you to understand something. We don't know everything that's going on here. There is a spiritual battle that is being fought. Satan would be thrilled to see you turn against God because of Christina's death. Yet, God wants to comfort you because of what Satan has done.

So, there's something else I have learned from another part of God's word.

I have also learned that I do not have to sorrow for Christina like "others who have no hope. [1 Thessalonians 4:13-18](#)

Others who have no hope are not comforted like I am by the fact that Christina is a Christian. (The same letters in her name spell Christian. I kept making the mistake of typing Christian instead of Christina when preparing this. Maybe it was not a mistake, because that is who she is and I am comforted by that.) Christina confessed her faith in Christ and was baptized into him so her sins would be washed away. She did that so that if Jesus came in her lifetime she could meet him blameless and sinless. She obeyed the gospel so that if something like this happened, she would be able to go home. I know she would encourage everyone else she knows to do the same thing.

Others who have no hope are not comforted like I am by the fact that she will be one of the first to meet the Lord. "The dead in Christ will rise first."

Others who have no hope are not comforted like I am by the fact the rest of us who follow the Lord will meet her and the Lord in the air. That's why Paul was able to say at the end of that section of his letter, "Comfort one another with these words."

I have learned there are *some things that God would not allow*.

[1 Corinthians 10:13](#) *No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.*

Some may be tempted to blame God. Some may be tempted to distrust God. Some may be tempted to turn away from God. I want you to notice some things about this verse.

1. Others have been through this kind of thing before, this verse says, trust them and depend on them to help you through this.
2. God is faithful.
3. God protects us.
4. If this is a hard struggle for you, this verse says God has confidence in you that you can handle it.
5. If you cannot handle it, this verse says God helps us through it.

What has Satan done for us? Did Satan give HIS only begotten son? Did Satan die for us? Did Satan make any attempt to deliver us from anything? Does Satan offer any comfort in times of anguish? No--on all counts.

God Will Deliver Us

[2 Corinthians 1:9-10](#) Yes, we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves but in God who raises the dead, *who delivered us from so great a death, and does deliver us; in whom we trust that He will still deliver us,*

[2 Timothy 4:18](#) *And the Lord will deliver me from every evil work and preserve me for His heavenly kingdom.* To Him be glory forever and ever. Amen!

God is Faithful

[1 Corinthians 1:9](#) *God is faithful*, by whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

[Deuteronomy 7:9](#) "Therefore know that the Lord your God, He is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and mercy for a thousand generations with those who love Him and keep His commandments;

[2 Thessalonians 3:3](#) But the Lord is faithful, who will establish you and guard you from the evil one.

[2 Timothy 2:11-13](#) This is a faithful saying: "For if we died with Him, We shall also live with Him. If we endure, We shall also reign with Him. If we deny Him, He also will deny us. If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself.