

Sermon: The Three Most Unwanted Gifts from God

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 12:9-10, Proverbs 30:7-8; Selected Texts

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1) Wrong belief

“God is either not sovereign, or is unloving, if not both.”

2) Correct belief

“God is sovereign in the hardest of my times, while always demonstrating His love and goodness to me.”

1. THREE INACCURATE SUPPOSITIONS

1) Our Grip (view of self)

-Our inaccurate presupposition

“I am a good person and deserve better than what I am experiencing.”

-The truth

“Because of my sin, I do not deserve any expression of the goodness of God.”

2) Our Posture (view of God)

-Our inaccurate presupposition

“God either doesn’t care about me or is not capable to help me.”

-The truth

“God proves His love for me by offering up His Son on my behalf.”

3) Our Alignment (view of God's ways)

-Our inaccurate presupposition

“Either God has nothing to do with my pain and misery or He allows both in my life in order to either punish me or to make my life miserable.”

-The truth

“God gives us painful gifts that we hate, but which allow us to gain what we ultimately need and want.”

2. THREE UNWANTED GIFTS FROM GOD

1) Suffering

John 16:33 (NASB)

³³ *These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world.*

1 Peter 4:12 (NASB)

¹² *Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you;*

James 1:2-4 (NASB)

² *Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials,*

³ *knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance.*

⁴ *And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.*

Psalms 119:71, 75b-76 (NASB)

⁷¹ *It is good for me that I was afflicted,*

That I may learn Your statutes.

^{75b} *...And that in faithfulness You have afflicted me.*

⁷⁶ *O may Your lovingkindness comfort me,
According to Your word to Your servant.*

2) Weakness

2 Corinthians 12:9-10 (NASB)

⁹ *And He has said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness." Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me.*

¹⁰ *Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong.*

3) Denied Abundance

Proverbs 30:7-8 (NASB)

⁷ *Two things I asked of You,
Do not refuse me before I die:*

⁸ *Keep deception and lies far from me,
Give me neither poverty nor riches;
Feed me with the food that is my portion*

Psalms 107:43 (NASB)

⁴³ *Whoever is wise will consider the lovingkindness of the Lord.*