**Part Three: Enemies of Faith**

**Lesson Twenty**

**Day 32**

Day 32: “False Teachings”

🡺You may find it helpful to divide this day into two lessons.

**Discussion Questions**

1. Sometimes Christians say things that are not true about our loving and giving God to explain something that they don’t understand. This often comes in form of those attempting to comfort someone else. They are trying to help, but are not speaking the truth. Have you experienced this?
2. Why is it of utmost importance to base our beliefs on what we can see in the life of Jesus?
3. **Believing that God Does Miracles Based on Our Power of Holiness**

* Have you personally ever fallen into the trap of believing that by your “own power or godliness” God would use you in “mighty ways”?
* How is it that miracles happen?
* Why is it dangerous to think that it is by our power, holiness, or diligence that miracles happen?
* Have you witnessed “the exaltation of man” in the church today? How has it manifested itself?
* How might exalting one person as having more power than other believers lead to deception in other areas?
* Explain what this means to you. “We were saved by grace through faith. We live by grace through faith. Miracles happen by grace through faith. As soon as we insert ourselves into the equation beyond that of believing, we wander from His grace.”

1. **False Understanding of the Sovereignty of God**

* The word “sovereign” and similar words are found zero times in the KJV of the Bible, only once in the NKJV (and only relating to God’s sovereignty over Israel), but you will find it 297 times in the NIV. How obvious it is why so many Christians today are confused about the idea that “God is sovereign”. Growing up as a child in the church, I never heard sermons on God’s sovereignty, and yet it is quite common to hear this today, not only in sermons, but in discussions between Christians. Because believers have a false concept of what this means, many of them end up accepting things that God is not doing and attributing to God evil things in which He has no involvement whatsoever. Discuss.
* The idea is “God can do whatever He wants, whenever He wants, to whomever He wants.” Why might this be a grace and faith-killing concept?
* Discuss the false concept that our God is like the mythical gods.
* Because of this error, God gets blamed for the evil in the world, or at the very least, that He allowed evil to happen (the idea being that He could have stopped evil from happening “if it had been His will”). How does this go against the truth that it is not His will that any should perish?
* If 9-11 was God’s judgement on evil, why did the innocent die along with the wicked? Do you remember the account of Abraham interceding for the righteous in Sodom and Gomorrah? If God would spare America, for example, for only ten righteous persons, how could 9-11 be His judgment on the USA?
* Discuss the importance of the paragraph that begins with, “On a personal level,”.
* According to the next paragraph, what is a better biblical understand of “the sovereignty of God”?
* Why is the depravity of mankind a more accurate explanation for why evil happens?
* In this earth, there is the will of God, but there also things that happen that are clearly NOT His will. How is the fact that God gave His Son in death for us, prove His intentions toward us?
* 🙚***This is a logical place to divide the lesson, if you choose to do so***.🙘

1. **Dying to Sin**

* What do Christians NOT need to “die to sin”?
* How can the belief that negative things that happen in our lives are efforts by God to help us “die to sin” actually work in opposition to having faith?
* If you’d like to discuss further the truth that we are dead to and free from sins, read Romans 6.

1. **Dying Daily**

* If we already died to sin, and the false concept the church has of “dying daily” is incorrect, then in what since might a Christian “die daily” (see 1 Cor.15:30-32).

1. **Paul’s Thorn in the Flesh**

* How can understanding what Paul’s “thorn in the flesh” was, set us free to believe God for victory in areas we once thought were His doing?

1. **He Gives and Takes Away**

* Why is it inaccurate to compare our relationship with God to Job’s?
* In Hebrews 2:14-15 we read that Jesus destroyed the devil who HAD the power of death in order to free us from the haunting slavery of the fear of death. Isn’t that awesome? Yet, we are told to resist the enemy as steadfast ones in the faith. So, what power does the enemy have in our lives as believers?
* How does the life of Christ on earth confirm that He does not “give and take away”?
* None of the Bible writers spoke of the idea that God “gives and takes away”. What did they have to say about the gifts God gives us?
* Discuss the last paragraph in this section.

1. **Into Each Life a Little Rain Must Fall**

* Discuss how most people understand Matthew 5:45 in a way that is completely opposite to what is means. How does the false concept cause us to accept our negative circumstances, and how can understanding what it really means set us free?

1. **Disappointments and Set-Backs**

* Of course, disappointments and painful experiences can discourage us. How can getting our minds off the pain of the past and focusing on the goodness of Jesus enable us to be healed?
* What encouragement do you find in the song in this section?