

## “Who’s Your Daddy?”

In Cifu Japan just after dark, fishing boats sweep down the broad river. Fires burn in cages that hang from the prow of each boat. These fires attract the fish to the surface. Each master-fisherman manages a dozen large birds called cormorants. A cord ending in a metal ring tethers each bird and the ring is fitted around the neck of the bird. The cormorant thrusts his bill into the water and scoops up a large fish, which will go down his throat only as far as the ring. The master-fisherman then draws the bird back into the boat. The bird disgorges the fish and is fed a smaller one that slides down his throat past the ring. It’s amazing to watch the master-fisherman hold the cords of a dozen birds keeping them from becoming tangled. The birds dart about after their fish; sometimes two will struggle for the same fish, but the master-fisherman keeps them all in order, without creating havoc to the lines.

How many times have we believed we were doing things our way, only to realize that we were working within the master plan of the Lord? We can learn a valuable lesson from the cormorants that envision their catch yet are satisfied with whatever the master-fisherman decides to give them.

One of the most fascinating things about the Lord is that while we try to follow through with His plans, and in the process get tangled up, He skillfully unravels our mess, doesn’t He? If we would just remember to trust the Lord and recognize that He’s in control, things would turn out more positively. How reassuring to know, that the Lord is master of everything and he is working out all things according to His good will and pleasure.

Divine Sovereignty, means that God is God in truth, as well as in name, that He is on the Throne of all universes, directing all things, working all things “after the counsel of His own will” (Please read Ephesians 1: 3-11). Our Lord is the Most High and infinitely elevated Lord above even the highest creature in heaven and on earth. He is subject to none, influenced by none, absolutely self-reliant; God does as He pleases, and only as He pleases. None can thwart (defeat) Him none can hinder (obstruct) Him.

God’s Word expressly declares in Isaiah 46: 10; “My counsel shall stand, and I will do all My pleasure;”

Daniel 4:35 says,

*“He doeth according to His will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: none can stay His hand.”*

Therefore, our lives are neither the product of blind fate nor the result of capricious (fickle, not firm in character) chance, but the living and reigning God ordains every detail of our lives. Not a hair of our heads can be touched without His permission.

Proverbs 16:9 says,

*“A man’s heart deviseth his way: but the Lord directeth his steps.”*

What assurance, strength, and comfort this gives us! *"My times are in Thy hand"* (Psalm 31:15), *and because my time rests in your hands, I will, "Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for Him"* (Psalm 37:7).

All of us, at one point or another, are being tested and as a result we feel anguish (distress of the mind) and intense spiritual pressure. Basically, everything that can be shaken is and will be shaken. Please understand that what you're going through now will come to an end, and these tests are, believe it or not, for your good. The Lord continually and consistently tests our righteousness to work in us purity, faith and spiritual determination, to say the least. As I've said many times, the Lord tests our resolve in order for us to see if we've learned something!

Here are just two reasons that may explain why we handle tests the way we do:

- First, we rationalize that the problems we're experiencing have somehow gotten past our Heavenly Father, and because we feel this way, we assume that they are now our problems to solve.
- Second, we feel, as though we are being judged for something we did wrong. The truth is just because we are being tested doesn't mean that we've done something wrong and need to be disciplined; testing is far from being judged.

We're not being **judged**; we're being **tested**. Our God knows about our dilemmas and believe it or not, He is addressing them, His way!

**I proclaim today, that the storm clouds that have gathered over my life dissipate in Jesus name! That the fullness of what the Lord wants to do in me come to full term, in the name of the Lord!**

I Chronicles 29:12 says,

*"Wealth and honor come from you (God); you (God) are the ruler of all things. In your hands are strength and power to exalt and give strength to all."*

Job 42: 2 says,

*"I know that you can do all things; no plan of yours can be thwarted."*

For those who feel as though their dilemma is bleak and impossible Matthew 19:26 says, *"Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."* I proclaim that your issues are resolved and that the Lord's Sovereignty penetrates your disbelief.

We should inquire of the Lord about what He's teaching us in the midst of our dilemmas, rather than question His methods? We can't view our circumstances and become despondent because they're not resolved the way we think they ought to be. I'm afraid we operate in a world system mentality (microwave mentality of impatience and self-centeredness) that causes us to dwell upon our problem and the solution simultaneously, resulting in reluctance to look at the problem solver, Jesus Christ.

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Are we guilty of focusing our attention on our issues and not stretching our faith to believe the Lord?

For example, if we're having financial difficulties, God may be allowing the tests to occur in order to see how we're going to respond. Through the years, I've learned that when I'm having financial problems, I give my way out of it! If you're sick in your body, whose report will you believe the doctor, the devil or the Lord? The truth is that if we are being tested, more than likely, God may be about to bless us abundantly and extravagantly according to His will in heaven, in that area!

So today allow the Holy Spirit to touch your despair, let Him remove doubt and unbelief, which has caused you to believe that, "God doesn't care", or that "He isn't listening." Allow the Lord to heal your hopelessness, fear, and despair." I'm proclaiming that if you'll look upon the face of the Lord and put your trust in Him, He'll never let you down! Our Savoir will turn your darkness into noontday brilliance and solve your problems according to His will in heaven; **trust in Him and see!**

**Read Psalms chapter 89:1-18 and Acts 17:24-30**

### **Conclusion**

If you are struggling to overcome your difficulties please come forward and allow the elders to lay their hands on you. Please come in faith to receive an impartation that we must trust the Lord as "He orders our steps!"

\* Some of this information was taken from "Let's Illustrate" by Donald Grey Barnhouse and the "Attributes of God," by Arthur W. Pinks.

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