

Sunday Morning: August 7, 2011

Randall L. Adkisson, Ph.D.

Monday

Job 10:1-3 "I loathe my very life; therefore I will give free rein to my complaint and speak out in the bitterness of my soul. I will say to God: Does it please you to oppress me, to spurn the work of your hands, while you smile on the schemes of the wicked?"

Bitterness grows from seeds of unresolved anger. Sometimes, perhaps often, that anger is secretly turned toward God. Are you angry with God? Is there a hidden resentment within your heart? Realize that though your anger may be buried deep, it is not hidden from God. You are not the first of His children to be angry with him, disturbed by events of life, or perplexed by troubles. Remember Job? He argued with God; even called Him to account. Remember that God, knowing your anger, still loves you deeply. So tell Him you're angry. It will not surprise Him, but it will open your spirit for His healing. Bitterness is poison.

Tuesday

Heb. 12:15 See to it that no one comes short of the grace of God; that no root of bitterness springing up causes trouble, and by it many be defiled.

Have you ever attacked a weed that had a huge taproot with multiple tentacles? It is almost impossible to get the root out, if you have allowed it to remain in the yard for any length of time. Every year the root grows deeper. Every year the tentacles grow further afield. Such is bitterness. It is a root that grows so deeply in your life that without a work of God it will destroy you. It does not simply affect one area of your life. It spreads to every aspect. You may be bitter about an incident, a word, an act, or a person from long ago. It is affecting your every relationship today. That is the poison of this bitter root. Give it to God. Let Him destroy it.

Wednesday

Mark 14:36 And He was saying, "Abba! Father! All things are possible for You; remove this cup from Me; yet not what I will, but what You will."

If anyone had a right to be bitter, it was Jesus. His family misunderstood him and thought Him crazy. One of His disciples betrayed Him to death. In a way, every one of them did. He cried out to God in agony asking for release from the spiritual, mental, and physical anguish that was befalling Him. Yet, Jesus knew the vision, the plan, and the love of God the Father was sure. He trusted the Father. He had faith. He would face it all and count it a part of God's plan. You can trust the Father. He is faithful and true. You can walk in the purpose of His providence for your life.

Thursday

Rom. 8:20 For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope...

Often deadly bitterness grows from our unrealistic expectation of life, of others, even of ourselves. We live in a fallen world. Sin and the resultant consequences weigh heavily upon our world. Tribulations for our families and ourselves are part of life, unavoidable. Difficulties in relationships arise. Economic, environmental, even emotional turmoil is to be expected in a sinful fallen world. That is why we must prepare ourselves for tribulation, thank the Lord for our blessings, and eagerly pray for His return. Right now, give thanks for the blessings of today.

Friday

Mark 14:36 ...yet not what I will, but what You will.

"When you don't know what to pray, pray, "Your will be done." When you think you know the answer, pray, "Not my will, but Yours be done." Never be ashamed to pray for the perfect will of God. Jesus prayed in that way. When your emotions are torn between two alternatives of prayer, do not worry that you are not spiritual enough. Jesus did not; instead He prayed, "not what I will, but what You will." There is nothing better than the perfect will of God in any circumstance. So pray boldly as Jesus prayed, "...yet not what I will, but what You will."