

Flow

Part Five: *dependence*

December 17, 2023

We tend to question if God cares about us when a storm blows into our lives (Mk 4:38-40). We find it difficult to believe God cares about us mere mortals (Psalms 8:3-4). *But we must remind ourselves during difficult times that the Bible repeatedly states...*

- **God cares about us and promises to take care of us.**

"Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains, your justice like the ocean depths. You care for people and animals alike, O Lord." (Psalm 36:6, NLT)

"Give your burdens to the Lord, and he will take care of you..." (Psalm 55:22a, NLT)

"Look at the birds. They don't plant, harvest, or store food in barns, for your heavenly Father feeds them. And aren't you far more valuable to Him than they are? Can all your worries add a single moment to your life? And why worry about your clothing? Look at the lilies of the field and how they grow. They don't work or make their clothing, yet Solomon, in all his glory, was not dressed as beautifully as they are. And if God cares so wonderfully for wildflowers that are here today and thrown into the fire tomorrow, he will certainly care for you. Why do you have so little faith?" (Matthew 6:26-30, NLT)

"...God who takes care of me will supply all your needs from his glorious riches, which have been given to us in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:19, NLT)

"So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most." (Hebrews 4:16, NLT)

"Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about you." (1 Peter 5:7, NLT)

The fact He cares about us and is committed to taking care of us infers that...

- **God wants us to live dependent on Him.**

This point may offend your ego, but you need to remind yourself that God wants you to depend on Him because you cannot live a happy, fulfilling life without Him.

How are we dependent on God?

1st – God gives us life.

We would not be alive without God. Our unique life-supporting planet did not come about by a cosmic accident, and we did not evolve from apes into human beings. God created us in His image and breathed life into us. We are His offspring (Col. 1:16-17; Acts 17:22-28)!

2nd – God supplies our needs.

As God provides plants with sunlight and water, He provides us with everything we need for life (Psalm 104; Matt. 5:45). Everything we have is a gift from the Lord (1 Cor. 4:7; James 1:17)! God gives us food (Matt. 6:11; 2 Cor. 9:10), wisdom (James 1:5), skills and talents (Ex. 35:10; 1 Chr. 22:15-16), wealth, possessions, and power (Eccl. 5:19), peace (John 14:27; Phil. 4:6-8), strength (Is. 40:31; Phil. 4:13), children (Ps 127:3-5), our spouse (Prov. 18:22), the Holy Spirit (John 15:26) - God graciously gives us what we need to live a productive life!

3rd – God provides a way for us to be saved.

As sinners, we need a Savior (Romans 3:10, 23; 5:12). God loved us so much that He sent His Son Jesus to die for us so we could be saved from the penalty and power of our sins (Romans 5:6-8; 2 Cor. 5:21). God gave us a way to have a new life through Christ (John 3:16-18; 5:24; 6:51; 10:6-18; 14:6).

Because we are dependent on Him...

- **God is constantly showing us that we need Him.**

Pride makes us believe we do not need God (James 4:6-10). *How does God remove our pride and get us to depend on Him for our needs?* God uses stressful situations to show us that we need His grace to live (Mark 4:35-41; 6:45-52; 2 Cor. 12:1-10).

The Point: God cares for us and promises to take care of us. Our Creator wants us to live dependent on Him, and He uses stressful situations to show us that we need His grace to live. Grace-filled Christians depend on God because He is the source of life, breath, and everything.