

Faith Christian Fellowship
Sunday, March 4, 2012
I Am Not a Victim 4
Don't Blame God

Text: Romans 8:37 NLT No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us.
Gen 3:11-13 / James 1:13

This is the Year of Victory. Our emphasis is specifically “overcome the victim mentality – I am not a victim!” Victims blame God, parents, the Church, society, oppressors and predators, self. Victors stand up, step up, and take responsibility for their lives. Today we hit the big one: God is not to blame.

♥ God is scapegoat #1

- “Act of God” is a legal term for stuff you didn’t cause and can’t control – volcanoes, hurricanes, etc.
- “God made me this way” is the open-ended excuse.
- Some Christians go so far as to accuse God of predetermining everything and the eternity of every one – no one is culpable for anything!
- Christian blaming behavior is sometimes subtle.
 - “God is teaching me something.” Try reading and listening
 - “Everything happens for a reason.” True enough, but not because God ordained it.
 - “God is sovereign.” True. He has sovereignly told us His will in His Word, and that He is the God who cannot lie
 - “God allows suffering to make us more like Jesus.” No we partake of the sufferings of Jesus for the same reason he suffered: to bring redemption to others, He bought the package, we deliver it.
- “God never closes a door without opening a window.” Be sure you know who closed that door. Fleeces are not very reliable. We have the Spirit inside. Romans 8:14
- “The Lord giveth and the Lord taketh away” The Job clause: You never can tell what God is gonna do. Job 1:21. God did not take anything away!
- **This thinking leads to a quiet bitterness of soul** that erodes any real relationship with God. He may be theologically Father, but there is no desire to know Him as Daddy.
 - Job (with the help of his religious buddies) slid over into blaming God and calling Him unjust- Job 9:17, 34:5, etc.

- God was not pleased with this 38:2
- Job finally got it: 42:2-6

♥ Evil is in the world through two cooperating entities:

- Adam: Romans 5:12-21. Bad stuff happens because
- Satan: John 8:44 / 10:10
 - The curse + the fallen nature + Satan = seemingly random tragedy in a generally well-ordered world.
 - Ignorance can be fatal. Job never heard of Satan, though he was brutally abused by him. If he can manage to convince you that your troubles are from God, then he can prevent you from resisting.

♥ God is never the author of temptation: James 1:2-17

- Temptation, tests, and trials will come. We have lusts. There is a satanic kingdom.
- Our job is to stay steady in the midst. Perseverance is key to long-term victory.
- God will get us out or through. 1 Cor 10:13. The way of escape is there somewhere. We can ask and He will show us.
- We must avoid the temptation to blame God – that is the first sign of deception.
- Following God is not always a straight line. Don’t get distracted by the twists in the road or by the length of the night.
 - Num 21:4. There are variables that determine your route, though you may not know them.. (Num 20:20-21/ Dt 23:7) Note the response of people in verse 5.to the delay of going the long way around:
 - Delay often brings complaint. Heb 6:12 Faith with patience
 - John 15:7.
 - ◆ Abide in Him= abide in love. 1 John 4:16
 - ◆ His words abide in you.
 - 1 Jn 5:14-15. Faith begins where the will of God is known. Petitions that are born from the Word of God, prayed in faith, and bolstered with perseverance are bound to be obtained.

The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life.
(John 10:10 NLT)