

Does God Really Care About Me?

When bad things happen to people, a natural reaction is wonder whether God cares or even knows about them. It is at these very moments of grief, frustration, and inner turmoil, in which we must grasp to the knowledge of God's love for us. It is difficult to grasp it during these times but we must for our emotional survival.

It helps to understand that from the very beginning that God was a loving and caring Father. We catch a glimpse of this love as God brought the animals to Adam to name and He took great pleasure in this interaction, Genesis 2:19, 20. We then see God's concern for Adam since there was no helper, so God created Eve from Adam and gave him a very special helpmate, Genesis 2:21, 22. We know that it was the custom for God to be present in the garden to fellowship with the couple, Genesis 3:8. Even after the sinful act of disobedience, God still exhibited care by providing clothing for them, Genesis 3:21.

People often get the impression that God was a harsh and judgmental Lord. This was true at times but God also showed His concern for the welfare of others. In the Hebraic Law there were instructions to put railings around the roof so that people would not get injured, there were instructions to not abuse the blind, there were numerous provisions to care for the poor and defenseless. The latter concern was even to include an instruction not to hurt the mother bird and the eggs if a nest should fall. The very heart of the Hebraic Law was to show love to one's neighbor as a sign of God's love.

David felt God love at the very darkest hours of his life. We see examples of this love in the Psalms, 6:1-4 NLT: *O LORD, don't rebuke me in Your anger or discipline me in Your rage. Have compassion on me, LORD, for I am weak. Heal me, LORD, for my bones are in agony. I am sick at heart. How long, O LORD, until You restore me? Return, O LORD, and rescue me. Save me because of Your unfailing love.* David experienced many trials in his life but he always knew that God loved him for He said David was a man after His own heart, 1 Samuel 13:14. God feels the same love for all of His children.

We often may doubt his concern or awareness of our problems but Jesus encouraged us in Matthew 6:25, 26 NLT: *"That is why I tell you not to worry about everyday life—whether you have enough food and drink, or enough clothes to wear. Isn't life more than food, and your body more than clothing? Look at the birds. They don't plant or harvest or store food in barns, for your heavenly Father feeds them. And aren't you far more valuable to Him than they are?"*

Of course the greatest expression of his love came with the life and mission of Jesus, John 3:16 NLT: *"For God loved the world so much that He gave His one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life."* Eternal life is found in knowing God, John 17:3, for as we get to know Him better, He reveals His great love for us. This love is permanent promise to His children, Romans 8:38, 39 NLT: *And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.*