

the example of God as He deals with the family of God, to follow that example in not giving the child necessarily everything the child would like, but in giving the child what is for the child's good, and what will develop the child in the way it should be.

Many a parent who has been negligent in this regard goes thru great suffering in realizing how their children turn out. God gives the parent a tremendous responsibility, and God sets us an example of not necessarily giving our children what they would like but giving them what would be for their best interests. Of course we are but fallible human beings, and we may make serious mistakes in these regards. But how wonderful it is to know that God never makes any mistakes. And that what God sends into our lives is because he wants us to have the particular experience that He sends. He has a purpose in it for us. He is our father. We are members of His family, and we can completely trust Him. We can know that what he sends is for the best.

That doesn't mean we just lie down supinely when disaster comes to us. He may send something to us to struggle against. Something to develop us by trying to overcome it. But he doesn't send any thing for the purpose of making us depressed or upset or filled with anxiety. He does not send anything for the purpose of making us feel we are a complete failure. We are a complete failure--all of us. Completely failed. But Jesus Christ looks == lifted us up at Calvary and every goodness we have comes from Him, and we should recognize the fact and not worry about our failures but go ahead and turn them into successes. And realize that our Father controls all things.

When I was in seminary, I remember one of the students was very much upset at what one of the teachers was saying about God the Father and how that everything good came from Him, and he said that as you go out of this building a brick may fall off the building and hit you on the head, but what's the difference. The materialistic view is that it's pure accident. The Christian view is that God permits it. He causes it for His purpose. I remember how upset this student was. He said he didn't care what caused it, he didn't want to be hit on the head anyway! Of course none of us do, but if we know the Lord we know God as our Father and we know the loving Father does not permit anything to happen except what will carry out His wonderful purposes.

So as members of the family of God we can take God's example at the head of the family, as we have families of our own and try to carry it out, follow His example. But in the aspects of our lives we can recognize that God is our Father at every step. What he sends into our lives is for our good. Also, of course, he sends things into our lives in order that we may serve Him.

I knew a man who told me (he's now deceased but I heard him tell some years ago) how back in the days of World War I, (a little before it perhaps) he was ministering at a church in ~~Altoona~~ Altoona. One day his wife bore a beautiful little girl and she died in childbirth. He said he was absolutely distraught. How could God permit such a thing as this to come to his house? To leave him with that little girl to bring up without the mother to help! And to take