Examples of Knowing, Considering and Letting

2-2-2016
Jeremiah 29:11-13 'For I know the plans that I have for you', declares the LORD, 'plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. You will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart.'

We know that God ALWAYS tells the truth. When God tells us that His plans for us are for our welfare and not for calamity and to give us a future and a hope THAT'S WHAT HE MEANS! There are many times when we are going through something difficult and we don't understand it. However, we know and consider (decide that it is so) that God has a perfect purpose for allowing it. He wants to grow us spiritually so we can experience His best! Therefore we should not get in God's way - let it happen!
There are MANY reasons for difficult times in the home. Satan, the world and our flesh want to tear families apart. Ouch! They know God wants the family to be a unit of authority, love, support and encouragement. This is not what always happens but this is how God wants it to be. God wants us to be humble and obedient. The father is the top authority. The wife is to respect the authority of her husband. The children are to respect and obey the authority of their father and mother. We know and consider that this is what God wants. Remember, God’s plans are for our well-being, not for our misery! Let God teach us endurance! God gave us the perfect family for us!

*Colossians 3:18-20* Wives, submit yourselves to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them. Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord.

*Ephesians 6:1-2* Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. “Honor your father and mother”—which is the first commandment with a promise—
A big trial for many parents concerning their families welfare may be how they will pay their bills. And of course, their attitude affects the entire family. Family members can remind each other that the problem is not how they will pay bills; the problem is how they think about the situation. Our top priority is to be learning about God and His will. We know that He will provide for our welfare. We are to have FAITH in God and His word! Satan, the flesh and the world will try to take this faith away from us. God the Holy Spirit will fight this battle for us and give us faith. We just have to believe that and keep learning the word of God! We have to know God’s word, consider it as truth and let God take care of the problem!

Matthew 6:31–33 Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.
We need God’s armor; we can’t fight the battle on our own. We get into trouble when we think – even just a little bit – that we can solve the problem. We have to use God’s viewpoint; He has the BEST view!

When we have disagreements in our family or outside of our family, we are to solve them with God’s word. We are to check ourselves to see if we are in the wrong, not just concentrate on where we think the other person failed. We are to state our disagreement with the other person, without placing blame, so that he/she knows that there is a problem which we wish to solve. Hopefully, the other person will be on the same page, wanting to solve the problem according to God’s way of thinking! That’s the only way to solve it! Both people need to check their attitude and see if they are thinking with God’s thoughts!

Ephesians 6:13 Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm.
Sometimes the other person just doesn’t get the problem YOU seem to have. He/she is very self-centered, arrogant, and doesn’t want to solve the problem according to God’s word. That is when, with the power of God the Holy Spirit, you leave the situation in God’s hands and keep focused on the Lord Jesus Christ. What a relaxing sight! You have faith that God will see you through this trial! He has in every other situation and He will in this situation!

1 Peter 1:6-9 In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials, so that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ; and though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him, you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, obtaining as the outcome of your faith the salvation [deliverance] of your souls.
There are many reasons for difficulties outside of the home. An example is people at school or on sports teams that don’t have the same belief in Jesus Christ as we do. They may put us down because of our belief. They may try to get us to do things that we know are wrong! They may say, “Everyone else is doing it! Therefore, it must be the right thing to do!”  WRONG! Satan is a master of deception! The only way we can stand up to these people is by the power of God the Holy Spirit and Scripture.

2 Corinthians 10:3-4 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.
Only God knows our difficulties completely! He wants us to always look to Him first, not at our difficulties! If we are focusing on our difficulties instead of God, we won’t see the good things He wants to come out of our circumstances! For example, if our peers are putting us down because of our beliefs, we can remember a Scripture like: Proverbs 1:1 How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, nor stand in the path of sinners, nor sit in the seat of scoffers! We can tell them about the consequences of what they want us to do; the consequences will hurt us. God never tells us to do something that will harm us. Only Satan, the great deceiver, does that.

Proverbs 3:1–2 My son, do not forget my teaching, but let your heart keep my commandments; for length of days and years of life and peace they will add to you.
Facing others with the power of God the Holy Spirit and with God’s truth will strengthen our faith! It may change their minds too! God will help us through our difficulties. He will put people in our paths that can help us according to His word! After we have endured the difficulties with Him, He will give us consequences that are MUCH better than we can even imagine!

1 Corinthians 2:9 But just as it is written, “THINGS WHICH EYE HAS NOT SEEN AND EAR HAS NOT HEARD, AND WHICH HAVE NOT ENTERED THE HEART OF MAN, ALL THAT GOD HAS PREPARED FOR THOSE WHO LOVE HIM.”
Jeremiah 29:12-13 Then you will call upon Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. You will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart.’

In our world of distractions, it is so easy to stray from the thinking of this Scripture. God wants us to pray to Him – to have a conversation with Him. He will always listen no matter the time of day or night! Our conversations with God will help us to stay in His wisdom and have FAITH! What we have to remember is that God will give us the faith and He will take care of our welfare! We can count on it! We have to keep hearing that over and over so we don’t forget it! We have to know for certain that God has a future and hope for us! He will tell that to us as many times as we need to hear it!

Proverbs 3:5-6 Trust in the LORD with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight.

Show me Your ways, O Lord. Teach me Your paths. Psalm 25:4
Every person has problems or trials. God allows these so we can focus on Him and see how He comes through for us! He wants us to endure with His power! So, the question is, how do we handle them - with God’s word or with the words of Satan, the flesh and the world? The main concern is what fills our minds? If we have God’s thinking or wisdom in our minds, we can make wise choices through the power of God the Holy Spirit. We will have wisdom to use to encourage each other. If we have Satan’s thinking, we will make bad choices and put down others, even our family members, and discourage them. Ouch!

_Ephesians 6:13 Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm._
Always put the Lord first! This is what He tells us to do. He will take care of everything else! We can consider it so, we can count it as such. Sometimes I think how wonderful it was for Jesus to be with Peter when he was in trouble on the sea. Dah! I am with Jesus during all my troubles; you are with Jesus during all your troubles! He understands! He lives inside of us! He will NEVER forsake us! We can know this as true and let Him lead the way in endurance!

**Philippians 4:19** And my God will supply every need of yours according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

**James 1:2-4** Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect [mature] and complete, lacking in nothing.
Ephesians 6:13 Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm.