

Spiritual Depression: Its Causes and Cure by Dr. Martin Lloyd-Jones
Chapter 10: Where is Your Faith?
Luke 8:22-25

In our last lesson we considered the situation of those who have labored for a long time in the vineyard. If we are of this sort, we may have the temptation to expect that God is going to grant us special favors for our many years of service. We can begin to despise the grace that is being given to others who have not labored as "long and hard" as we. We can murmur at God and begin even to despise Him. We also learned that we are not to keep track of our advances in the kingdom and make accounts of our service. Our left hand is not to know what our right hand is doing. We are to remember that in the Lord's kingdom, the first will be last and the last first. Speaking of this truly gracious relationship we have with the Lord, Lloyd-Jones writes, "This life is full of romance. Our ledgers are out of date; they are of no value. We are in the Kingdom of God and it is God's accountancy. It is all of grace." Seeing and reckoning on God's grace given through Jesus Christ is a great panacea for those depressions associated with considering the extent of our labors and what we think is due unto us. Christ Jesus earned all of our salvation and He has the right to do what He will with His own.

In this week's lesson, we are to study the roll of faith in conquering our depressions. The key passage we are to consider is:

Luk 8:22-25 NKJV Now it happened, on a certain day, that He got into a boat with His disciples. And He said to them, "Let us cross over to the other side of the lake." And they launched out. (23) But as they sailed He fell asleep. And a windstorm came down on the lake, and they were filling *with water*, and were in jeopardy. (24) And they came to Him and awoke Him, saying, "Master, Master, we are perishing!" Then He arose and rebuked the wind and the raging of the water. And they ceased, and there was a calm. (25) But He said to them, "Where is your faith?" And they were afraid, and marveled, saying to one another, "Who can this be? For He commands even the winds and water, and they obey Him!"

1. What do we learn about the person of the Lord Jesus from this passage?

2. Why should we be thankful that the Word of God not only contains the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, but also an account of the disciple's response to Him?

3. The Lord Jesus rebukes the disciples for their lack of faith? How was their lack of faith manifested?
4. What is the first lesson we are to learn from the disciple's response to the storm?
5. What is the second lesson were are to learn?
6. Regarding the parallel passage, Mark 4:38, what two things did the disciples seem to doubt?
7. Lloyd-Jones draws a number of principles from this passage to help us in the midst of depression. State those principles in answer to the questions below.
 - 1) Hint: "What is one of themes of the Scriptures regarding faith?"
 - 2) Lloyd-Jones seeks to answer the question, "What is the nature of faith?" What are his observations concerning the nature of faith?
 - 1] Lloyd-Jones mentions two things faith is not. What are those observations?
 - 2]
 - 3) Positively speaking then, what is faith? Lloyd-Jones says that it is an activity. It is something that we must place in the Lord and His Word. It does not work automatically as we would like for it to work. What are some clarifications about this that Lloyd-Jones brings forth?
 - 1] Faith is a refusal to _____. Faith is unbelief kept _____.
 - 2] Secondly, faith _____.

Lloyd-Jones – "Whatever your circumstances at this moment, bring all you know to be true of your relationship to God to bear upon it. Then you will know full well that He will never allow anything to happen to you that is harmful, 'All things work together for good to them that love God.' Not a hair of your head shall be harmed; He loves you with an everlasting love. I do not suggest that you will be able to understand everything that is happening. You may not have a full explanation of it; but you will know for certain that God

is not unconcerned. That is impossible. The One who has done the greatest thing of all for you, must be concerned about you in everything, and though the clouds are thick and you cannot see His face, you know He is there. 'Behind a frowning providence He hides a smiling face.' Now hold on to that."

"You have to focus your faith on to events and say: 'All right, but I know this about God, and because that is true I am going to apply it to this situation. This , therefore, cannot be what I think it is, it must have some other explanation.' "

State two of your favorite verses in dealing with depression resulting from doubt?

3] Finally, we must remember that God values even _____.

Items for further consideration:

William Cowper
1731-1800 (Reportedly, Cowper's last hymn)

1. God moves in a mysterious way His wonders to perform; He plants His footsteps in the sea And rides upon the storm.	4. Judge not the Lord by feeble sense, But trust Him for His grace; Behind a frowning providence He hides a smiling face.
2. Deep in unfathomable mines Of never failing skill He treasures up His bright designs And works His sovereign will.	5. His purposes will ripen fast, Unfolding every hour; The bud may have a bitter taste, But sweet will be the flower.
3. Ye fearful saints, fresh courage take; The clouds ye so much dread Are big with mercy and shall break In blessings on your head.	6. Blind unbelief is sure to err And scan His work in vain; God is His own interpreter, And He will make it plain.

Ecc 7:8-10 NKJV The end of a thing *is* better than its beginning; The patient in spirit *is* better than the proud in spirit. (9) Do not hasten in your spirit to be angry, For anger rests in the bosom of fools. (10) Do not say, "Why were the former days better than these?" For you do not inquire wisely concerning this.

Ecc 7:13-15 NKJV Consider the work of God; For who can make straight what He has made crooked? (14) In the day of prosperity be joyful, But in the day of adversity consider: Surely God has appointed the one as well as the other, So that man can find out nothing *that will come* after him. (15) I have seen everything in my days of vanity: There is a just *man* who perishes in his righteousness, And there is a wicked *man* who prolongs *life* in his wickedness.

Psa 40:1-3 NKJV I waited patiently for the LORD; And He inclined to me, And heard my cry. (2) He also brought me up out of a horrible pit, Out of the miry clay, And set my feet upon a rock, *And* established my steps. (3) He has put a new song in my mouth— Praise to our God; Many will see *it* and fear, And will trust in the LORD.