“Lord, I Have Some Questions: Are You Really in Control?”

Genesis 45:5-7

Notes

1. It’s easy to shield our children from the harsh realities of life, to cushion or even prevent failures, but those challenges and even failures we face are what help us to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, to develop \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, to become \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

2. God created us to love him, but there can be no real love of God without a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_to love him.

3. Three Presuppositions to Guide Us

1. God is supremely in control when he limits his \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. God is sensitively in control as he gives \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ even as he knows what we will do with it.
3. God is sublimely in control when he \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_to bring good out of evil that happens to and around us.

4. Three Truths to Remember

1. God is omnipotent – having all \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. God is omnipotent – having all \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
3. God is gracious – having all \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

5. Absolute love guides all God’s knowledge and use of power in is dealing with people.

* What God does with what he knows is always conditioned with by what will help us become \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_people.
* “We know all things work together for those who love God and are called according to his purposes,” (Romans 8:28)
* “For I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord. They are plans for good and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope,” we can take those circumstances, look at them form a different perspective, and ask, “Lord, what can I discover in this that will help prepare me for what you have in mind for me?” (Jeremiah 29:11)

6. Wisdom from Joseph’s Life

* “And the Lord was with Joseph, so he became a successful man.” (Genesis 39:2)
* “And now, do not be distressed and do not be angry with yourselves for selling me here, because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you. For two years now there has been famine in the land, and for the next five years there will be no plowing and reaping. But God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance.” (Genesis 45:5-7)
* “But Joseph said to them, “Don’t be afraid. Am I in the place of God? You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.” (Genesis 50:19-20)

7. Out of the worst, God promises his \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.