

I have a 23-year-old son who is living his life independent of the Lord. When he was a boy, I saw a tenderness toward the Lord and an ability to easily talk to people about spiritual things. I remember sitting around the campfire in Yellowstone National Park when he was about ten-years-old and hearing him say that when he grew up he wanted to work with homeless people. I remember thinking at that time that he would be perfect for that kind of work because of his heart and his personality.

We prayed what I thought were bold prayers for our kids asking that they would be oaks of righteousness, seeking the Lord with their whole hearts, seeing Him for who He really is and not just the reflection they have dimly seen in our lives, impacting their generation with the truth of Jesus.

So, needless to say, perhaps, I have vacillated between being disappointed with my obvious failure to reflect Christ to him as his mother and being disappointed with God for not providing him with Christian friends in middle school and high school and for not showing up when he seemed to be taking steps towards God and didn't experience anything miraculous - like going to Mexico with a missions team. I have alternated between complaining to God and being impatient with His timing and then finding some sense of peace in knowing that He is in control. I will go along for a while in that peace and then once again get weary of waiting or see new evidence of the lostness in my son which brings me back to complaining again.

I sensed God was saying in Job 40:6-14, "Put it out on the table, and we will talk about it." Part of my story is a path of bitterness. God has released me from lots of it, but I still have a tendency to have that as my first response to situations. I can quickly get caught in a snare of bitterness before I even see it coming.

That is also true in my relationship with God. So part of the path out of bitterness is to be honest with Him about my anger, my disappointment, and my fear before it has a chance to turn to bitterness. I have tried to copy the heart of David and his honesty before the Lord. David starts many psalms with his complaint but ends up with his heart turned toward the Lord in praise.

I guess what I'm trying to say is that I need to be honest before the Lord bringing Him my complaints, fears, despair, and then let the truth of Who He is pour over me. Job has been great to be reminded that God's ways are different than mine, that I don't have the whole picture or the perspective that He does, that God is seriously in control of everything - just look at the intricacies in nature! He is totally worthy of my complete trust. I can rest in Him. His perfect love casts out all of my fears.

Thank you for leading us through this study. It has been great to get to know you and see your heart before the Lord. Thanks for sharing your love for Him and His word.