



Sermon Notes

The Way of Agape Part 38 – Resilience
September 19, 2021

God wants us to return to Him with our full attention so we can mature in His love. He wants us to slow down and be quiet before Him so He can heal us of our woundedness, creating scar tissue that is stronger than the original tissue. And as we become more comfortable in our own skin, God will thicken it so the arrows of the enemy don't stick anymore.

God wants us to be Teflon Christians.

God never promised us we would be problem-free.

John 16:33

³³ "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

John 14:27

²⁷ Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

John 14:27 Living Bible (TLB)

²⁷ "I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart! And the peace I give isn't fragile like the peace the world gives. So don't be troubled or afraid.

The Message Version:

I don't leave you the way you're used to being left—feeling abandoned, bereft. So don't be upset. Don't be distraught.

Bereft: deprived of or lacking something

We can be in the middle of a storm where it feels like everything is falling apart, and because of God's love – because we belong to Him, we will not be deprived and we will not lack anything!

Our inner peace does not come from the elimination of turmoil and conflict in our lives. They are simply products of our fallen state, and we need to stop taking them as an indictment. Our peace comes when we change our response to the turmoil and conflict.

When we respond in the flesh, we go through the trial. But when we respond by faith, we grow through the trial.



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We decide whether or not the arrows of the trial stick.

Too many of us are expecting our flesh to get saved.

We will never completely eliminate the flesh from our lives this side of heaven. It is part of our fallen state. And the enemy knows how to leverage it against us. Our healing comes when we change our response to it.

God always has a reason for allowing turmoil and conflict in our lives.

Ephesians 6:10-16

¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹ Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. ¹² For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. ¹³ Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. ¹⁴ Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, ¹⁵ and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. ¹⁶ In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.

Psalm 91:1-6

*¹ Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High
will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.^[a]
² I will say of the LORD, "He is my refuge and my fortress,
my God, in whom I trust."
³ Surely he will save you
from the fowler's snare
and from the deadly pestilence.
⁴ He will cover you with his feathers,
and under his wings you will find refuge;
his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart.
⁵ You will not fear the terror of night,
nor the arrow that flies by day,
⁶ nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness,
nor the plague that destroys at midday.*

Resilient: Able to withstand or recover quickly from difficult conditions.



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How often do you attend your thoughts?

A resilient Christian emerges from a trial stronger for it.

What if God is trying to bring healing out of a situation, yet we are fighting Him by living in avoidance?

Intentional is the opposite of reactionary!

Fear and anxiety creep in when our sense of security has been breached. Analyze what makes you feel secure, and you'll have a clue about your fear.

Many times, the solution to a problem is hidden within the problem.

God did not call us to a life of avoidance.

If we minimize our emotions and anxiety and try to numb them, we may miss what God is trying to do!

As God makes us more comfortable in our skin through healing, He is also thickening that skin!

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