

God's Understanding**980208**

Most of us try as hard as we know how to do what is right. We want to do the best that we can. Unfortunately, we oftentimes fail at this. We have the need for support from those around us, but we know that they don't really understand our motives. I've been through this, and I have tried to think of how God helps us out of this feeling. I think we go through a sort of roller-coaster ride of despair and hope. The real problem is that the ride lets us out at the lower level of despair and we don't know how to get back to the top. Let's look at the trip in this way:

Despair: I feel despair because no one knows how hard I try to do good. Something happens in my life and perhaps I feel a conflict with other people. They look at what I have done and assume the worst of motives. They may tell others about me, and I feel that I am losing my grip on my reputation. I sink into depression because no one understands me.

Hope: Then I remember that there is someone who knows my heart: God! He knows what I have to go through and the people that I have to deal with! Even if no one else appreciates me, then God surely will!

Despair: But then I realize that God knows me only too well! He particularly knows my sin. He sees how bad I am, how far from his Goodness I live. Surely this is worst than the first level of despair! I can never be worthy in God's sight. My depression deepens and I lose heart in my attempt to do what is right.

Too many times this is where our ride ends. But there is a very important last leg that we must understand. It is the part that really counts, and it goes something like this:

Hope: God is so wonderful that He truly understands my weakness and loves me anyway. He knows that I am not perfect, but he knows the force of the factors that cause me to be that way. He has been on this earth Himself, in the person of Jesus Christ, and knows first hand what I am up against. He looks at me with mercy and grace, knowing that as I strive to walk in the light He is there with me to strengthen me and comfort me. Even if no one else understands me, God does because his wisdom and knowledge and love are infinite.

It gives us a great feeling when we reach this level of understanding. Our ride has let us out at the top and we are ready to go anywhere we want! We can share our every thought with God as a friend: everything, good or bad. He already knows what they are, anyway.

We must understand completely that Christ is our intercessor and continually argues our case. He knows how hard we are trying to do His will, and love us for it. We need to keep in our minds the scripture that explains this to us:

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are--yet was without sin. Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

Hebrews 4:15-16

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