

## THE RELIEF OF KNOWING GOD'S WILL – EPH. 2:1-7

### Series: THE JOURNEY OF PURSUING GOD'S WILL

<sup>4</sup> But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, <sup>5</sup> even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), **Ephesians 2:4-5 (NASB)**

- Relief: *"The removal or lightening of something oppressive, painful, or distressing."*

### 1. GOD'S MERCY OUR SOURCE OF RELIEF

- The connecting link between a Holy God and a sinful person is God's love which activates His grace, which in turn sets in motion His mercy.

<sup>12</sup> I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because He considered me faithful, putting me into service, <sup>13</sup> even though I was formerly a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent aggressor. Yet I was shown mercy because I acted ignorantly in unbelief; **1 Timothy 1:12-13 (NASB)**

<sup>3</sup> As he was traveling, it happened that he was approaching Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him; <sup>4</sup> and he fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?" **Acts 9:3-4 (NASB)**

## 2. FIVE MISERIES RELIEVED BY GOD'S MERCY

### A. The anguish of unfair treatment

<sup>20</sup> So Joseph's master took him and put him into the jail, the place where the king's prisoners were confined; and he was there in the jail. <sup>21</sup> But the LORD was with Joseph and extended kindness to him, and gave him favor in the sight of the chief jailer. **Genesis 39:20-21 (NASB)**

### B. The anguish of the grief of loss

<sup>8</sup> And Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go, return each of you to her mother's house. May the LORD deal kindly with you as you have dealt with the dead and with me. <sup>9</sup> "May the LORD grant that you may find rest, each in the house of her husband." Then she kissed them, and they lifted up their voices and wept. **Ruth 1:8-9 (NASB)**

### C. The anguish of struggling with a disability or handicap

<sup>4</sup> Jonathan, Saul's son, had a son who was a cripple in his feet. He was five years old when the news came out of Jezreel [of the deaths] of Saul and Jonathan. And the boy's nurse took him up and fled; and in her haste, he fell and became lame. His name was Mephibosheth. **2 Samuel 4:4 (AMP)**

<sup>3</sup> The king said, "Is there not yet anyone of the house of Saul to whom I may show the kindness of God?" And Ziba said to the king, "There is still a son of Jonathan who is crippled in both feet." <sup>4</sup> So the king said to him, "Where is he?" And Ziba said to the king, "Behold, he is in the house of Machir the son of Ammiel in Lo-debar." <sup>5</sup> Then King David sent and brought him from the house of Machir the son of Ammiel, from Lo-debar. <sup>6</sup> Mephibosheth, the son of Jonathan the son of Saul, came to David and fell on his face and prostrated himself. And David said, "Mephibosheth." And he said, "Here is your servant!" **2 Samuel 9:3-6 (NASB)**

<sup>8</sup> Again he prostrated himself and said, "What is your servant, that you should regard a dead dog like me?" ... <sup>13</sup> So Mephibosheth lived in Jerusalem, for he ate at the king's table regularly. Now he was lame in both feet.

**2 Samuel 9:8, 13 (NASB)**

### D. The anguish of suffering

<sup>1</sup> "I loathe my own life; I will give full vent to my complaint; I will speak in the bitterness of my soul. **Job 10:1 (NASB)**

<sup>12</sup> "You have granted me life and lovingkindness; And Your care has preserved my spirit. **Job 10:12 (NASB)**

### E. The misery of guilt

<sup>5</sup> I acknowledged my sin to You, And my iniquity I did not hide; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD"; And You forgave the guilt of my sin. Selah. ...

<sup>10</sup> Many are the sorrows of the wicked, But he who trusts in the LORD, lovingkindness shall surround him. **Psalms 32:5, 10 (NASB)**

## 3. GOD'S TENDER MERCIES

- When I am treated unfairly, God's mercy relieves by bitterness
- When I grieve over loss, God's mercy relieves my anger
- When I struggle with a handicap, God's mercy relieves my self-pity
- When I endure pain God's mercy relieves my hopelessness
- When I deal with sinful actions, God's mercy relieves my guilt