

Something to Pray About

By Cindy Sears – January 2011

***“THE PROBLEM OF EVIL
WHY GOD?”***

“For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.” —Luke 20:25 (NKJV)

The discussion went well at the small group study about the suffering that we go through in this world, but we never really discussed the “problem of evil.” I understand that suffering changes me—and in Your power—it changes me for the good. I understand that, if I had never known the bad, I could not appreciate the good. (That’s one problem in the U. S. today. We have it so good, yet we do not appreciate it; because most of us have never had to deal with real want, real hunger, or real lack of true necessities. We do not understand just how much better most of us live here in the U. S. compared to the majority of people in the world. Even our poorest people—even the homeless—have it better here than in many places in the world.)

But, back to the question of evil...Was it really necessary to let evil come into the world? And even if it was, why is it so bad? I have a feeling that, as far as evil goes, “we ain’t seen nothin’ yet.” I have looked into my mind and imagination and have read other people’s versions of their worst nightmares—and they are worse than even the most horrible news headlines today. And those headlines are out of the norm—for the most part. We don’t hear about all those people who did not choose to kill, abuse, steal, take advantage of other people’s gullibility—and so on. Your Holy Spirit and Your Church are working constantly to be the salt and light in the world. You are restraining us from greater evil. And, as pathetic as the church is sometimes (or its people), we are also helping to restrain evil and to bind up the wounds of those hurt by evil (their own and others).

But the question remains—why did You let evil into the world, God? Are we truly going to be better people and better worshipers of You, after this is all over? Probably—but oh the pain we suffer now! Yet, we can sing praises to Your Holy Name, because we know that you have redeemed us from a fate worse than death. Only the saved sing in heaven. The angels do not sing. The angels are not redeemed. That is amazing! You have made no provision for the angels’ to be redeemed, yet you have for us mere humans! Wow! You truly do want us to be Your sons and daughters—not automatons or robots—but living, breathing individuals who choose freely to accept Your call to salvation and adoption into Your family. Thank You, Lord God Almighty, Creator of Heaven and Earth, Our Redeemer, Our King, and the One True God. Amen.

“And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.” —Romans 8:10-11 (NKJV)

