

# Maturity and Perfection

The judicial intent of God for us is maturity and perfection. We seek to grow and develop into maturity and be made perfect in our walk with the Lord. A seed is sown into the soil, watered, and sprouts and grows and develops to a state in which it will be very difficult for the tree to fall down when there is a storm. An immature prince has no part in the kingship unless he passes through vigorous training. In law, cases are determined by the interpretation of provisions in the law according to its original intent and not its literal intent. The original intent of the law is what we call the spirit of the law and the literal intent of the same is what we call the letter of the law. The literal intent or letter of the law is the black and white prints on the pages of papers or scrolls that represent the law but the original intent or spirit of the law is the inspiration or understanding behind the written or printed law.

Let us examine two scriptures in the context of the original intent/spirit of the law and the literal intent/letter of the law;

In Habakkuk 1:4 the prophet Habakkuk under the burden of societal ills and evils made this statement unto the Lord. *"Therefore the law is slacked, and judgment doth never go forth: for the wicked doth compass about the righteous; therefore wrong judgment proceeded."* In the above statement, it appears that the Lord is disconnected completely from the righteous because of the chaotic and lawless environment the righteous found him/herself. He made an allusion to the fact that God is not speedily avenging and retributively recompensing the wicked for the wickedness perpetuated in society, especially against the righteous. Subtly he seems to lay the blame on the doorstep of God because God is responsible for the safekeeping of the righteous. God must take care of His own, that was the voice behind the statement he made.

One could clearly see the disappointment of the Prophet in the statement he made. He was despaired and disillusioned by the events unfolding before his eyes and purportedly God seems to be unconcerned about whatever is transpiring. According to the rumblings and feelings of the Prophet, God should take up His sword of fierce judgment and begin to unleash His fury on the wicked and his atrocities while at the same swiftly securing the borders of the righteous from the vicious and cruel invasion of the wicked. This is how a lot of believers today feel about God with respect to the present predicaments and conditions of their lives. They subtly seem to be blaming God for not speedily coming through for them. They end up throwing jabs at God and His word for His lack of interest in their cases. They gradually push the blame for the agony of their plight at the doorway of the Merciful Father.

But little did they know that the judicial intent of God concerning the finality of their case is not of the same value as the literal intent of how things and procedures should be. Little did they know that God can use their suffering to achieve something with an eternal value - *Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered;* - Hebrews 5:8. They did know that nothing can work against God and His righteous people. So therefore Paul the Apostle wrote on this note in Romans 8:28 that - *"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose."*

Beloved, we didn't know then but now we know. Habakkuk the Prophet did not know then but now “we” the sons and daughters of God know. The Prophet did not have a full understanding of the workings and dealings of God and therefore was liable to such commentaries. But now we know. We, who are under a better covenant, which was established upon better promises, know that all things work together for good to them that who love God, to those who are the called according to his purpose.

So Apostle Peter revealed by the help of the Spirit what Prophet Habakkuk lacked in his understanding of the Judicial Intent of God in 2 Peter 3:9 which says – *“The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.”* God is not slack concerning his promises. Any promise the Lord has given in His word is for sure. They are not mere grammatical expressions occupying space on printable scrolls and papers. They are the eternal commitments of the Omnipotent Father to impotent and mortal men who have placed their faith and trust in Him. Some may call it slackness when they see the fulfillment and manifestation of the promise delayed. If the manifestation of the promise will not produce anything of the eternal value God wouldn't execute. *...but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.*

Yes, you could be suffering, but in God's calendar if the timing of the request of the manifestation of the promise will not result in anything of the eternal value He wouldn't pull the trigger. So, unto when must I suffer, you are asking? You must suffer until when the suffering has produced obedience in you. Do you remember Hebrews 5:8? **The intent of God in fulfilling His promises in our lives is not to make us materialistic and carnal but spiritual and matured in the things of God.** In the judicial process of God executing His righteous judgment on matters arising concerning the believer, His judicial intent is more important than the literal intent of the matter before Him.

Until we are matured and perfected in our sufferings and troubles, God's promise concerning us in that situation cannot and will not be fulfilled. *“For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise.”* Hebrews 10:36. Until your patience, which is a spiritual virtue and is of eternal value, is matured and perfected in your suffering you will not obtain the promise of God. God's judicial intent on your case will only make sense after you have done His will and have matured in spiritual and eternal things.

*“He must increase, but I must decrease. He that cometh from above is above all:”* John 3:30-31a. There should be a time in your life and in whatever purpose you serve where you are able to step back from the spotlight and goodwill you have enjoyed hitherto to allow another person whose season and time is due to fully step in and carry on from there. You should be able, out of a pure heart, to sit back and enjoy God's presence and rejoice in the light of him whose season is due.