



Remembering 9-11 Turning Points

Throughout history—there have been turning points—an event or discovery that forever changes people and cultures. The wheel, the light bulb, putting a man on the moon, the Declaration of Independence—Pearl Harbor and September 11, 2001. What we do with these turning points often determines our future.

Introduction: America and the world would never be the same after September 11, 2001. As believers in Jesus Christ we have a reason to respond to adversity with increased faith and hope. Rather than shrink in fear—we, “Press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.” Phil 3:14

A. The Call to Righteousness 2 Cor 9:9-11

1. Abundance of good: In Paul’s day some churches had abundance while others were in poverty. Paul wrote to the Corinthians in 2 Cor 9 to warn them that they needed to ‘finish’ what they had determined earlier—send an offering to another church.

2. Increasing righteousness: There are some who take this passage to be about ‘increasing riches.’ If God did not provide the seed to sow—we would have nothing to ‘sow’. And it is God who causes the increase, the fruit—that is the result of doing right. (*Compare to the church at Laodicea Rev. 3:14-22*)

3. Enriched in everything: The word ‘enriched’ is not the same thing as ‘wealthy.’ ‘Liberality’ comes from a root word meaning ‘simplicity,’ openhanded and generous. The real issue is: Have you managed all the resources of life for the glory of God, acknowledging God as provider.

B. The Call to God’s Word Isa 55:6-13

1. Seek the Lord: [*vv. 6-7*] This is a call to return to what REALLY matters in life—my relationship with Jesus.

2. God’s way the only way: [*vv. 8-9*] These verses seem to indicate that I need to defer my plans and thinking in favor of God’s plans and thinking for me. (*Compare with Phil. 2:5*)

3. God’s Word and will: [*vv. 10-11*] This agricultural metaphor reveals a wonderful picture of how God’s Word is our provision for life. God’s Word here is synonymous with His will—He will accomplish His purpose and will ‘prosper’ within the parameters of His will for us.

4. True prosperity: [*vv. 12-13*] When we are living according the power of God’s Word—joy, peace and worship will follow. We need to be clear here—even in the face of horrific events like 9-11, our joy, peace and worship remain consistent because they come from God’s Word—His promises to us.

“Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers. For I rejoiced greatly when brethren came and testified of the truth that is in you, just as you walk in the truth. I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.”

3 John 2-4

2 Cor 9:9-11 (NKJV)

9 As it is written:

“He has dispersed abroad,
He has given to the poor;
His righteousness endures forever.”

10 Now may He who supplies seed to the sower, and bread for food, supply and multiply the seed you have sown and increase the fruits of your righteousness, 11 while you are enriched in everything for all liberality, which causes thanksgiving through us to God.

Isaiah 55:6-13 (NKJV)

6 Seek the Lord while He may be found,
Call upon Him while He is near.

7 Let the wicked forsake his way,
And the unrighteous man his thoughts;
Let him return to the Lord,
And He will have mercy on him;
And to our God,
For He will abundantly pardon.

8 “For My thoughts are not your thoughts,
Nor are your ways My ways,” says the Lord.

9 “For as the heavens are higher than the earth,

So are My ways higher than your ways,
And My thoughts than your thoughts.

10 “For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven,

And do not return there,
But water the earth,

And make it bring forth and bud,
That it may give seed to the sower
And bread to the eater,

11 So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth;

It shall not return to Me void,
But it shall accomplish what I please,
And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.

12 “For you shall go out with joy,
And be led out with peace;
The mountains and the hills
Shall break forth into singing before you,
And all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

13 Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress tree,

And instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle tree;

And it shall be to the Lord for a name,
For an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.”