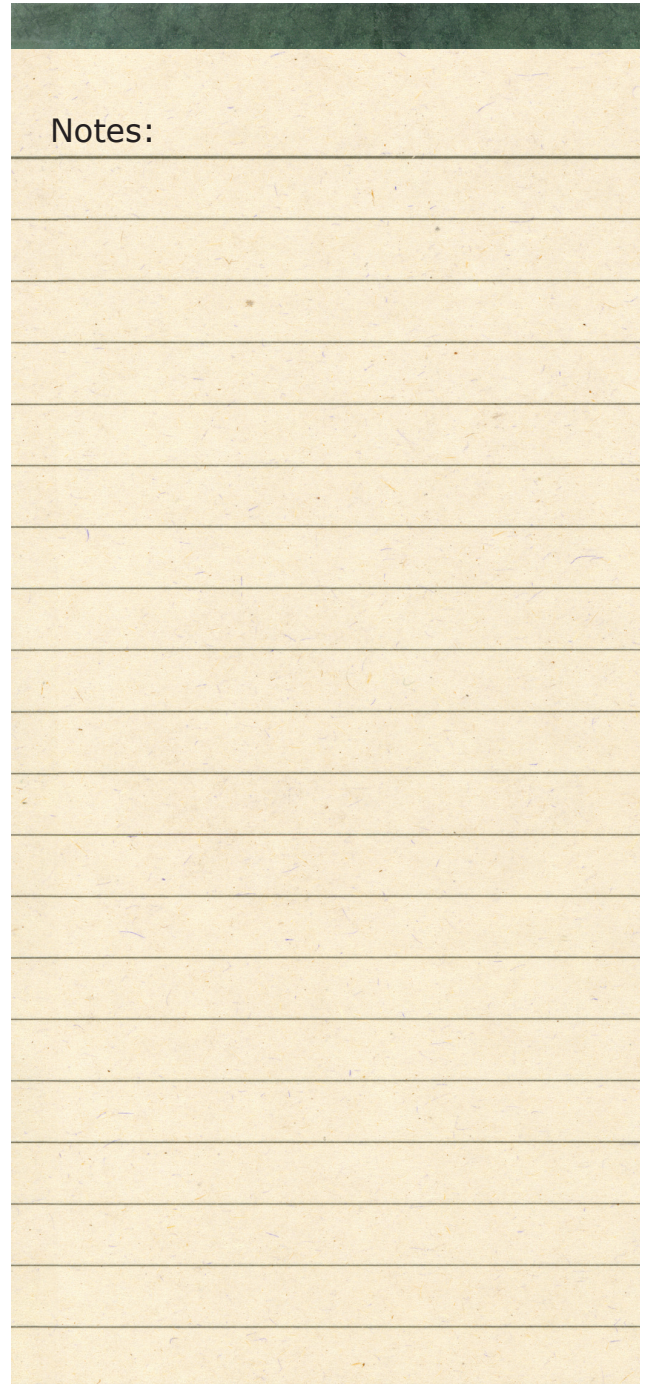




How Can A Job Loss Impact Your Relationship With God?

Bill: Job loss can impact all of the relationships in our lives, but it really does impact our relationship with God in a very specific way, because the person who's a follower of Christ, who has been given through Christ a relationship with a heavenly Father, really wants to know that that heavenly Father cares for us and loves us. That He really is the Father of lights from whom God comes down every good and perfect gift; that He really is the God who is our provider and the meeter of our needs. And in a time of job loss, one of two things is going to happen: Either that time of job loss is going to drive us to our God Who is able to meet our needs in the greatest times of loss and concern and fear in our lives, or it's going to drive us away from our God into doubt and into confusion that robs us of that great resource of trust and hope that we get in God. For the person for whom the time of trauma drives us away from our God, it's really important that that person understands that even if you walk away from God, if you're His child He's not going to walk away from you. He's still there for you. He's the God who's promised, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." And in the depth of the darkness of your hard time and your loss, God is still there even if you've walked away from Him because He'll never walk away from you. And when you are ready to turn to Him, He'll be ready to receive you and walk forward with you. And for the person for whom our despair and trauma drives us to our God, it's wonderful to know that no matter how long this journey is—and no matter how long this is going to take as we're in this time of job loss and job search—

Notes:

A large, vertical sheet of cream-colored paper with horizontal blue lines, intended for taking notes. The paper is set against a dark green background.



that God is sufficient. That He can meet our needs and that God has creative ways of responding to the needs that we have. And sometimes He will show His grace to us in very surprising and in very amazing ways as we trust Him.

Chuck: Well, how did my job loss impact my relationship with God is interesting because I felt that it strengthened me. Not everyone can say that, but for me personally it strengthened my relationship. I always knew God was in control, and I always felt that but I didn't experience it to the degree that I did after going through a job loss. Now I found myself being far more dependent and far more cognizant that I didn't have a whole lot to say about all of this. Even though I was in a lot of leadership positions and was able to control a fair amount of things in my past life, this just brought me to my knees in realizing I have nothing to say about this and I felt it was another part of God using me. He just said, "Hey, Chuck, you've got to get back to basics here and find out who is in charge."

I've worked with a number of people who have gone through those same experiences, but I've also seen unfortunately people who have gone through the job loss and just remain really, really bitter and start to have more of a distance created in their relationship with God, wanting to make God responsible, wanting to blame; questioning why he allowed this to happen and why they had to go through so much hurt. And so it is for some people it has caused some real challenges and difficulties, and you always hope that somewhere they'll come back online again with God and realize what this was all about.

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