

COMPASSION WITHOUT COMPROMISE "Upside Down, Inside Out Living #5"

Nahum 1:2-3, 7-13

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² The LORD is a jealous and avenging God; the LORD takes vengeance and is filled with wrath. The LORD takes vengeance on his foes and maintains his wrath against his enemies. ³ The LORD is slow to anger and great in power; the LORD will not leave the guilty unpunished. His way is in the whirlwind and the storm, and clouds are the dust of his feet.

... ⁷ The LORD is good, a refuge in times of trouble. He cares for those who trust in him, ⁸ but with an overwhelming flood he will make an end of Nineveh; he will pursue his foes into darkness. ⁹ Whatever they plot against the LORD he will bring to an end; trouble will not come a second time. ¹⁰ They will be entangled among thorns and drunk from their wine; they will be consumed like dry stubble. ¹¹ From you, O Nineveh, has one come forth who plots evil against the LORD and counsels wickedness. ¹² This is what the LORD says: "Although they have allies and are numerous, they will be cut off and pass away. Although I have afflicted you, O Judah, I will afflict you no more. ¹³ Now I will break their yoke from your neck and tear your shackles away."
Nahum 1:2-3, 7-13 (NIV)

"For sheer beauty, poetic imagery, dramatic description and vivid imagination Nahum is unsurpassed among the prophets." ... "Throughout the book we see the true nature of God as a tender, compassionate Being shining behind the tragic exhibition of His wrath. It is because of His tender love that His anger blazes so fiercely."

Dr. Kyle M. Yates

3 Questions:

1. Do I **believe** God enough to let go?

"For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so no one can boast."

Ephesians 2:8-9 (ESV)

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come."

2 Corinthians 5: 17 (ESV)

2. Do I **love** God enough to let go?

"We love God because he first loved us. If anyone says, 'I love God,' yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he

has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen. And he has given us this command: Whoever loves God must also love his brother."

1 John 4:19-21 (NIV) (see also Romans 5:6-11)

3. Do I **trust** God enough to let go?

"Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD, and turn away from evil."
Proverbs 3:5-7 (ESV)

What can I do?

- **See the justice** side of God.
Recognize that God has an ultimate plan to fulfill his promises.
- **Study the promises** of God in times of oppression and trial.
- **Submit to God's plan** for making all things right.
Lean on God for comfort & healing in the present.
- **Start building** a community of faith around you for support.