

“A New Bad Feeling”

The current escalation of hostilities in the Middle East is a regrettable occurrence for our world. As news organizations scramble for the fastest and most accurate reports, hundreds of people are interviewed about it. One of those interviews was broadcast earlier this week and involved a German woman visiting Labanon in the midst of the fighting. She said, *“I never heard bombings and rockets before...It’s a new bad feeling.”* It is not like she or others went out looking for that new bad feeling. It appears, rather, that she had no choice but to experience it.

Job was hit with all kinds of new bad feelings: the total loss of his possessions; the loss of all of his children, and the loss of his health. Pondering these losses, he said, ***“Man that is born of woman is short-lived and full of turmoil”*** (Job 14:1, NASBU). Let’s look at some aspects of feelings and their role

Though something is a new bad feeling for us, it does not surprise Jesus. He was one who was touched with our infirmities (Hebrews 4:15) He came to earth to save us, but in so doing, he identified with us and knew our hurts and sorrows. In fact it is just such an instance where we find the true meaning of the phrase, ***“I can do all things through him who strengthens me”*** (Philippians 4:13, NASBU).

Though it may be new for us, it is not new to mankind. Paul said that no temptation has overtaken us but such things that are common to people (1 Corinthians 10:13). We can come up with any precarious situation in which we find ourselves and know that someone, somewhere has been through that same kind of thing. We don’t have to believe that we have been singled out to receive punishment or something similar.

Though it may seem overwhelming, it is not necessarily so. Also in 1 Corinthians 10:13, we are told that with a temptation will come a way of escape so that we might be able to bear it. As God’s children, we can be assured of his faithfulness. We must realize that, if God is with us, no one or no thing can defeat us (Romans 8:31).

“Be anxious about nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:6,7, NASBU).

—Lance Cordle