The Father who does not give up

When someone brings a child into the world, he does not do it thinking the child will live a few years and then be abandoned. Such an attitude would be seen not only as loveless, but as downright shameful. The natural wish of every parent is for his son or daughter to grow up, to reach adulthood and to live at least as long as he has. He wants the child to enjoy the good things he has enjoyed himself.

For most people, a child is the greatest investment of their life. A person can lose a house, his savings or his job. These are painful losses, but they can be overcome. The loss of a child, though, is felt as one of the greatest tragedies, because nothing is more precious to a parent than the one who came from him and carries something of his own being.

If we love like this

If man, limited in love, in wisdom and in strength, is capable of such love, how great must God's love be for the beings created in His image? And if earthly parents long to see their children grown up and fulfilled, it is hard to believe that God would have created man only for a short existence followed by disappearance.

The principle can be seen in everything people do. No one starts building a house intending not to finish it. No one plants a tree expecting its fruit to stop growing while it is still green. A fruit stopped halfway would be an unfinished work. In the same way, man was created to grow, to mature and to reach the purpose for which he was brought to life.

By the child's bed

There is an instinct in us that every parent recognises. If a child has a serious accident and falls into a coma, or even reaches clinical death, no loving parent says: "It's over, there's no point any more." On the contrary, he does everything in his power. He calls the best doctors, sits day and night by the child's bed, spends everything he has and does not lose hope of seeing him open his eyes again. A parent's love cannot make peace with the loss of a child.

This love did not appear in our conscience by chance. It was placed in us by the One in whose image we were created. And if we, limited as we are, cannot resign ourselves to losing a child, still less could God resign Himself to losing man.

This is how God looks at humanity. Its separation from Him was not a mere accident, but the result of a choice made under Satan's deception. Yet the effect is similar: man was left cut off from the source of life, like a child fallen into a coma. But the Father did not give up on him. Through the prophet Ezekiel He says: "As I live, saith the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live" (Ezekiel 33:11).

God's plan for man was not abandoned. What had been interrupted had to be restored. And the aim is not only the forgiveness of the past, but taking up again the road of growth that had stopped. God does not want to change only outward behaviour, but also the way a person thinks, his motives and his values.

How far He went

Many parents are ready to die for their children. God did something greater still: "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). The Son came as a man, faced the same enemy, Satan, who had defeated the first man, and remained faithful to the end, even to death on the cross.

Seen this way, life is not a string of meaningless events. It is the work of a Father who does everything possible to bring His child back to life. His plan for man is not death, but eternal life in His family.

From the free brochure "The Purpose of Life". You will find the brochure under Resources.

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