

Essay from the bold pastor

#143 - POW -

A big news spread all across the US this past May. U.S. Army Sergeant Bowe Bergdahl who had been held captive as a POW (prisoner of war) by the Taliban, a rebel in Afghanistan, since June, 2009 was released after five years. Americans repeatedly saw on TV the video footage of him being transported by a U.S. Army helicopter in the Taliban-controlled mountain area of Eastern Afghanistan near the border of Pakistan. "While Bowe was gone, he was never forgotten... the United States of America does not ever leave our men and women in uniform behind," said the President Obama in his statement. Bowe's parents were invited to the White House for the celebration, and his hometown, Hailey, Idaho, was in the welcoming mood.

However, a lot of skepticisms arose following this event. First, some Republican officials accused the government of agreeing on a prisoner exchange to trade five Taliban officials who had been detained at Guantanamo Bay in Cuba for the release of Bowe. They also criticized the President of neglecting his duty to inform the congress of the release of those five officials. Furthermore, the possibility of Sgt. Bergdahl having left the camp to escape rather than getting captured emerged. All of those issues caused increasing criticism against President Obama by the media and the citizens. Nevertheless, he is standing firmly by his decision, for now.

Actually, this controversy is surprisingly similar to the story of "the fall to salvation," in which humans reject the blessing of God and bring sins onto themselves while God trades his own son, Jesus Christ, to save humans from sins. Here is another similar story:

***Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the
angel of the Lord, and Satan standing at his right side to accuse
him.***
Zechariah 3:1

Being the one who made humans commit sins as well as a God's enemy, the Satan kept on attacking and criticizing God and humans even after the salvation. That is why just believing in God doesn't keep us from troubles. Even Christians fail and commit sins. And each time, the Satan will point it out to us and accuse us. Yet, we don't need to worry because...

***But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—
Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.***
1 John 2:1

So, we know that Jesus Christ, the Savior, will save us in crisis. Believing in God and becoming a Christian alone doesn't mean that you're OK without any effort for your Christian life. Every day, we will need the blessing of Jesus Christ who was put on the cross to save us from being in a POW state. He will never leave us stranded in the midst of guilt and punishment.

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