

Things I am Learning...

1. My inability to accuse God:

- *“Be strong and courageous! Do not fear or tremble before them, for the Lord your God is the one who is going with you. He will not fail you or abandon you!”* [Deut 31.6; . The NET Bible]
- The philosopher’s objection: The law of non-vacuous contrast...

2. Yet my ability to feel bitterness towards the One I love...

3. The Comfort of ‘terrifying knowledge’!

- *“for the Lord examines all minds and understands every motive of one’s thoughts.”* [1 Ch 28:9; NET bible]

4. Gentleness as an unintentional “argument”

- It looks like a ‘positive’ argument, even when you are ‘defending’ something...
- The freedom to be honest (even as a part of healing)

5. Knowing what God likes in addition to what God is like...

- “How did you feel about that, Lord?”
- “delight” versus “things I hate”

6. Small beginnings in experiencing the Holy Spirit of the New Covenant temple

- The Old Testament model – David, Asaph, Obed-Edom
- The New Testament model – individual and community

7. Giving *ex nihilo*

- Barren Hannah: Samuel, and the *follow-on* kids (1 Sam 2.21)
- Barren wife of Manoah: Samson, and the *follow-on* kids (Judg 16.31)

8. God seeks a way to de-exile...

- “*But God does not take away life; instead, he devises ways so that a banished person may not remain estranged from him.*” [2 Sa 14:14; NIV]

9. The tapestry of providence and pedagogy

- Knowing God’s will and risk-taking
- The thread is individualized for you, but not individualized *only* for you...
- It’s *always* bigger and grander than you think!

10. Things rarely move quickly, and even rarer still in a straight line

11. I still don’t want to be God

12. God as community/relationship forger—the story of Lilliana

13. The beauty and peace-making of a faithful heart

- Faith and peace (“*in quietness and confidence shall be your strength...*”; Is 30.12)
- Trustworthiness and caprice