

A Candle In the Wind

Or

A Treasure In The Jars of Clays

“But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. We are hardly pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body. For we who are alive are always being given over to death for Jesus’ sake, so that His life may be revealed in our mortal body. So then death is at work in us, but life is at work in you.” (2nd Corinthians 4:7-12)

How many times we worked but no one remembers, considers, or gives us thanks! In how many times the one we served has denied us! How many times the one we loved has thrown us out! In how many times long hours we worked in the day and less time we gave for rest and sleep in the night! How many times have we worked hard but the money we got is not enough to supply our demands! In how many times we worked but the wage we deserved they hold back! How many times the one we helped rejects us, and the hands of aid we gave returns to us smashed! How many times we were weary and burdened we asked for help but no one extends his hands! Many times we suffered not because we sin but because of our righteous life! Many times we suffered because we are in the narrow way and away from the wide path!

Who among you say, “I am a dedicated Christian but why is my family broken down?” Who among you say, “I am a Christian but my family is lost and needs to be found?” Who among you say, “I am a Christian but why I am without job till now?” Who among you say, “I am Christian but why I am not healed till now?” Who among you say, “I am a Christian but my husband left me behind!” Who among you say, I am a Christian but my wife is with another man!” Who among you say, “Many times I prayed but the answer from the Lord is taking a long time? Who among you...

Today, I am speaking about things happening in the opposite way: You do good but you receive bad. You plant roses but you reap the thorns and the spikes. You burn your ten fingers but they see them as the charcoal tar. Why? Here is my question and your question as well: *“Is this Christianity really mean?”* Dearly beloved, if your condition is fit to the above description, do not be in a hurry to say yes to the above question before you understand the full scene. And do not worry and be in a hurry, for I will be honest with you but be patient with me till the last line! But again my friends, there is no room for sympathy today. If you are suffering because you sin, this message is not for you, wait for another time.

Forget now the longitudinal section, and let me illustrate to you in cross section the humankind. The outer coat (the clay) is the body and soul, the site where the stones fall and the lashes cross on. These are the site where the weapons of the enemy may fall: slander, envy, intrigues and plots. Body and soul is the site where the powers of darkness act on and that is what they want to destroy.

“We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus.” We are pressed on every side, perplexed, persecuted and struck down. Many trials and hard times we spent, ups and downs, winds, thunders and earthquakes in life.

Are we a candle in the wind? Yes, but with one great difference and surpassing truth. We may stand long time like a candle giving the light to others. We may even grow weary and our wax evaporating may reach to the bottom line. The wind may blow, and as a candle our bodies may be trodden down. The wind may blow and our light may faint. Our body and soul is like the candle wax, and our spirit is the flame. The candle may fall down or grow weary, and the candle flame may go away. But our flame which is our spirit will not go the same because all the surpassing power and the tolerance of a Christian are from God. *His spirit dwells inside us, and this is the treasure in the Jars of clay.*

The Christian may be *hardly pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed.* *“For we who are alive are always being given over to death for Jesus sake, so that His life may be revealed in our mortal body.”* All what is seen in this world may be unpleasant, but all these are temporary and no yield in them. Our flame comes from the unseen, the One who gives the eternal life and the glory that will never go back.

I know you did not sleep the whole night; you had been beaten, mocked, slapped on the face and despised. I can see the tears in your eyes, the amount you shed may be more than of mine. And I can see the thorns over your head as a crown. You may just have come from Herod and from Pilate you just left now. But no other way, and no other choice for the eternal glory and the true way of life. I know that the way from the city to the mountain of Calvary is afar, but no way to go back to live in the sinful life. And I don’t know if me and you will find somebody who will carry with us the burden of the cross to the place of the skull. But one thing I can see: three nails are awaiting to comfort your spirit and that of mine. The same nails that crucified Jesus Christ!

Jesus died for us and He gave us the flame of life that renews us inwardly day by day. Paul gave His life to the Lord and he suffered a lot because of the Christian life that he chose. But he was the channel of blessing that God used to convey His grace. He suffered for the people and he gave hope to those who met in his life. And now you who suffer, and to you who gave your life to death for Jesus’ sake, remember, you convey the flame of grace and the glimpse of hope to others around you. And now you can say as Paul said, *“So then death is at work in us, but life is at work in you.”*

My Dear and Beloved: To whom I am in deep love I write down, to you who are waiting from me I give you all the best I can. It is not a letter from a weak man, but from a man in victory and has conquered the land. And what more to tell you, than what Paul in the Bible had written down. *“Therefore we don’t lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.” (2 Corinthians 4:16-18)*

My Prayer: *Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins to give me eternal life. Lord I thank you for your word that gives me more understanding and more encouragement to go on and serve you. Lord I dedicate my life for your cause, take me, mold me and use me for your glory. This is my prayer in Jesus name Amen.*