

Hardships In Life

“strengthening the disciples and encouraging them to remain true to the faith. “We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God,” they said.”
(Acts 14:22)

In this difficult life where we are facing trials and hardship of many kinds we need a consolation; we need encouraging words that sustain us and push us forward to continue our walk and life with the Lord. It might be in your prospect and in the prospects of many people around you that the encouraging words that you want to hear from God is about material blessings from Him. That is not wrong impression about our God, but at the same time this is not the correct one. Many they misunderstand Christianity; they think it is an easy way of life. Many they think that when they give their lives to Jesus there will be no more problems in their lives. But that is not the whole truth. When we come to the Lord and we give our hearts and lives to Him our lives and living become easier and more manageable because He is with us. But that does not mean that we would not have troubles. This is not the promise of God; the promise of the Lord Jesus is this, ***“I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”*** (John 16:33) God also promised that when you will have troubles or when you face trials and hardships He will be with you, ***“No one will be able to stand up against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you.”*** (Joshua 1:5) And we thank the Lord for that; we will not be discouraged or grieved when we face trials but we rejoice knowing that He is with us. Truly that what His Word says, ***“What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all -- how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died -- more than that, who was raised to life -- is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? As it is written: “For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.” No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*** (Romans 8:31-39) God gave His Son Jesus for us; He died on the cross for our sins to give us eternal life and to offer us life and life to the full. And God allow trials and hardships to visit us not to disturb our lives but to build us in the way of righteousness that He wants us to live with.

1- “Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.”
(James 1:2-4) Trials makes us mature, complete and lack nothing. Hardships that we

pass through might hurt and cause us pain and suffering but would build in us the fruit of the Holy Spirit that radiates the character of Christ in our lives. The fruit of the Holy Spirit is Love, Joy, peace, patience, gentleness, kindness, faithfulness, goodness, and self-control. During the hardships that God allow to come on us we suffer much but inside us God create a man like Jesus full of love, peace, and joy. He builds in us a new man who has patient, perseverance and long suffering; these characters enable us to pass through hardships successfully. The Holy Spirit that lives inside us will change us. The hardship at the external environment will prepare us for the work of the Holy Spirit inside us. The Holy Spirit gives us power, ***“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 hard 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.”*** (2 Corinthians 4:7-10) From outside there are sufferings and weakness, but from inside power, strength and the Holy Spirit fruit that manifest externally Jesus life. ***“Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day.”*** (2 Corinthians 4:16) ***“In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that your faith -- of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire -- may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.”*** (1 Peter 1:6-7) Trials refine us and make us more clean and pure. In trials God is testing our genuine faith and submission to Him. In trials God is testing our compliance to Him and cooperation with Him to do His will and walk in His ways.

2- “Brothers, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. As you know, we consider blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job's perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.” (James 5:10-11) Trials are not meant by God to cause us losses and bad consequences. But trials are turning points in our lives. Crisis in our lives gives birth to Christ inside us and direct us toward the cross of Jesus who suffer and died for us. ***“Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him.”*** (James 1:12)

My Dear and Beloved: We should not be discouraged because of trials, and we should not be sad because of problems in our lives. We are in the right way and the exact direction toward eternity, ***“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 4:17-18) As we agree to pray.

My Prayer: *Father God, we come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for our sins to give us eternal life and life to the full. Lord we thank you for your Word to us. We agree with you and with one another that trials and hardships in our lives is to perfect us and make us mature. They are necessary for us before we enter the kingdom of God. Lord gives us more strength and perseverance and directs us by Your Word and by the help of the Holy Spirit into all the truth. Lord change our behaviors, attitudes and characters to be like Jesus and enable us to pass through all hardships and trials. This is our prayer in Jesus name, Amen.*