

General Topics :: For the Hurting**For the Hurting , on: 2011/2/19 22:09**

It is a great deliverance to lose one's self. There is no heavier millstone than self-consciousness. It is so easy to become introverted and coiled around ourselves in our spiritual consciousness. There is nothing that is so easy to fasten onto as our misery: there is nothing that is more apt to produce self-consciousness than suffering. Then it becomes almost a settled habit to hold onto our burden and pray it unceasingly into the very face of God until even our prayer saturates us with our own misery. Rather, we should ask for power to drop ourselves altogether and leave ourselves in His loving hands and know that we are free. Then we may rise into the blessed liberty of His higher thoughts and will and demonstrate His love and care for others. The very act of letting go of ourselves lifts us into a higher place and relieves us from the thing that is hurting. This habit of prayer for others, and especially for the world, brings its own recompense and leaves upon our hearts a blessing, like the fertility which the Nile deposits upon the soil of Egypt as it flows through to its ultimate goal.

by A. B. Simpson

Re: For the Hurting - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2011/2/19 23:44

Quote:
-----Rather, we should ask for power to drop ourselves altogether and leave ourselves in His loving hands and know that we are free. Then we may rise into the blessed liberty of His higher thoughts and will and demonstrate His love and care for others. The very act of letting go of ourselves lifts us into a higher place and relieves us from the thing that is hurting.

Amen. Lord free me from myself in these many ways. Allow my life to bring the maximum amount of glory that you desire from it. Purge me as a vessel to be used for the glory of Lord. By the grace of God I ask this.

Re: For the Hurting - posted by White_Stone (), on: 2011/2/20 0:07

Dear Jesus-is-God,

Thank you for posting that wonderful piece. Praying for others is much more worthwhile than praying for self.

And, also, thank you for the Scripture you use as a signature. I love the book of Malachi.

Re: , on: 2011/2/21 1:28

Amen - "Praying for others is much more worthwhile than praying for self." Yes, Amen Sis. I love how A.B. included "pray for the world". Sometimes our faith is too small for this - but we know that it is the will of the Father and He does honor when we have that mind of Christ. He loves the whole world, and we must too. And nothing makes our own trials or pain seem small then when looking at how the rest of creation suffers. Oh LORD!

Here's a short excerpt, also from A. B. Simpson -

"Often, therefore, has God to withdraw, for a time, the conscious joy, that He may prove us and develop in us the faith that trusts Him, and loves Him for Himself, rather than for the sweetest of His gifts.

A dear friend once came to us complaining that her spiritual joy had all left her, and that her heart was like a stone. There seemed no disobedience in her life, and no defect in her faith, and we could only commit her to the Master for all the teaching she might need. A few days afterwards she came with radiant countenance to tell how it had all ended. "The darkness," she said, "continued until I told the Lord that if He wanted me to be willing to trust Him in the dark, and to bear this for Him, I would do so as long as He was pleased to continue it. The moment I had yielded my will and accepted His, the dawn of heaven burst upon my soul, and the light returned with more than its former gladness, and I knew that He had only been testing me to teach me to trust Him for His own dear sake, and to walk by faith and not by sight." "

A needed lesson for us all.

Re: For the Hurting - posted by Lysa (), on: 2011/2/21 8:25

Thank you for posting this!

Re: - posted by ManofGod0000, on: 2011/2/21 9:35

In the midst of my suffering,

Lord Jesus, help, literally help me to lose what I know is folly with self and egocentric thinking.

Help as I murther through my existence, as I will not let you go, not until you bless me, but even after that, for man's way is definitely futile without you.

Re: HE is Always working -, on: 2011/2/21 12:22

- even when we think that He's not.

Sometimes we can be like our own little children.

They have no idea what Daddy is doing all day and at times don't even understand why or where Daddy goes every day. Children normally see the world as wrapped around their own needs or wants and would much rather that Daddy be home to play with them or make them feel better or make them laugh.

It seems to the child that Daddy has just left their house, because he 'wanted to' - when he goes to work - for his family's good.

GOD is Never just 'kicking-back' somewhere or leaving us. He said that He would never forsake us, and we know that He is definitely not lazy, as we can be at times, but promised to transform us (and our loved ones) and if we can just have "faith" in His Goodness, that He indeed is "at work" - we will reap in due season.

Here's another snippet from A. B. Simpson - May He Bless!

"The blessed Holy Spirit is our Guide, our Leader and our Resting-place. There are times when He presses us forward into prayer, into service, into suffering, into new experiences, new duties, new claims of faith and hope and love. Then there are times when He arrests us in our activity and rests us in the secret place of the Most High. He teaches us some new lessons, breathing into us some deeper strength or fullness and then leading us on again, at His bidding alone. The Holy Spirit is the true Guide of the saint, and the true Leader of the Church. He is our wonderful Counselor, our unerring Friend. He who would deny the personal guidance of the Holy Spirit in order that he might honor the Word of God as our only guide must dishonor that 'other' word of promise, that His sheep shall know His voice, and that His listening and obedient children shall hear a voice behind them saying, this is the way, walk ye in it (Isaiah 30:20)."

"Ah, friends, how much it would ease our tasks for the day that's just begun, to live our life a step at a time and our moments, one by one."

General Topics :: For the Hurting

Re: - posted by PaulWest (), on: 2011/2/21 12:46

I think that if you're going to go on with Jesus, past the cheering crowd and palm leaves and miracles and power sermons and all the other stuff that accompanied you at the onset of your calling, you will discover the Spirit will lead you into a wilderness of solitude, of hurt, of excruciating self-illumination. The enemy will be given free reign to tempt and torture you, to bring all manner of psychological, physical and spiritual warfare against you in the vacuum you find yourself in. You will come to loathe yourself, loathe your existence; God will bring you to brink of utter despair where you find your footing is loose, hands flailing, groping in vain at anything stable for support.

You will hurt for a long season, and cry repeatedly out to a God who hears and yet continues to hide Himself. At length you will stop struggling, stop crying audibly from spiritual fatigue and just sink. As you sink into the darkness of failure - beyond desperation - you will begin to truly understand the cross. No sermon can teach you this; only profound hurt and self-misery at the expense of spirituality can afford one a true glimpse of Calvary's efficacy. But even then you will not fully understand the magnitude, nor will at last be at rest. God must bring you deeper and deeper into a blackness and futility of self that is incomprehensible to those who have not experienced it. But as you experience it, and are somehow miraculously restored daily by the grace of God, the object of the cross becomes ever more clear: the reckoning of a death that must become as real as the death you've already died in Christ before the world was created.

Re: For the Hurting - posted by UntoBabes (), on: 2011/2/21 13:34

Quote:

-----like the fertility which the Nile deposits upon the soil of Egypt as it flows through to its ultimate goal.

When the Nile flooded the land of Egypt there was much loss of life and devastation, but the result was rich soil that made this land one of the most fertile in the whole world. But man does not like devastation, uncertainty that the flood brings. Man made the dam to control the flow of water. In the physical, this may be the wise thing to do. But are we not applying these same principles in the spiritual realm as well. We like to avoid devastation at any cost. We like to control the flow. That is why we are not seeing the blessings that comes only through death. We like to have a God who blesses but we forget that He must first devastate.

Re: For the Hurting, on: 2011/2/21 14:35

- this thread is For those who are presently being devastated and is to show the 'why' of what they are going through - in a nut shell --

Rom 8:28, 29 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose, for whom He did foreknow, He also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.

- so that, we may be formed into His Image.

What is His Image? For GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD!

Does it help those who are being devastated to tell them that they'll be devastated, without giving the "whys" behind it.

Is it all about "self" being someone?

Is it found in lofty words or is it about having His Mind, which was and is - "for others only"?

We are not like Christ until we see our own suffering for the sole purpose of being for Him to make us His "brethren" that are like Him by Family resemblance - 'others minded only.'

Self-less-ness is the end purpose for "devastation" or suffering and then to expect more suffering as He received for being 'self-less'. Our reward is not to be sought on earth. They murdered "Love Incarnate", so how is it that we expect as servants to be treated better than our Master was?

General Topics :: For the Hurting

Did He get respect or recognition? No, not until after He died. Then He was Glorified and sat down in Heaven.

Self is the cause of all sin. Selfishness is the opposite of His Love. Self-centeredness is at the root of our unfruitfulness in this world - to show the Love of Christ.

If GOD is Love - does the world see that in us?
Are we working out that love in a tangible way to this world?

Brother ManofGod0000 - you have gone to Nursing School - you suffered through the Psych class because it brings up the suffering of mankind but doesn't give the answer to them.

I was in Nursing - then I was put through more suffering than many humans could endure - both physically and otherwise - enough to write a book, if I wanted to glory in my suffering - but I know now, after the fact and even in present sufferings, 'why' I was & am put through all suffering - because now I truly know what my Patients are going through and any others that are being starved of food, medical care, kindness, a nice home with people who love them, suffering persecution and illnesses that can almost take you down spiritually --- third world style - which is far beyond what Americans go through, with few exceptions - as with 'some' of our homeless.

GOD would have you to be the best Nurse He has ever called to that profession.
To turn any Hospital or Nursing Home on its head until it fears mishandling another human being and the whole place - both the facility and the patients see Christ manifested on earth through you, by His Love.

The only Image of Christ that we're supposed to learn is Self-less - no matter the cost to ourselves and Glory to GOD for any suffering that will make us that way - Like Him.

The beginning and the end of all things, is to seek to be like Him and see "all things" are working toward that end and that end only - to make us others-minded-only as He is.
Living Sacrifices!

In the meantime - anyone going through the devastation that leads to being Like Him, has His heart-felt empathy.

Brother A. B. Simpson said - "to pray for others/the world instead of for ourselves", in the first post - AMEN - it hastens the "process" of being made more like Him.
Bless GOD and GOD Bless us to be conformed into His likeness, no matter the cost, amen.

Re: - posted by ManofGod0000, on: 2011/2/21 20:13

paul West, Another brother told me just this very thing, it just seems to hard and difficult to bear.

I do appreciate the response from the very depths of my heart.

thank u sir, but I still am in the wilderness, i would love to accept it and not wonder if i just could.

Re: - posted by ManofGod0000, on: 2011/2/21 20:59

Thank you Jesus-is-God,

I have had much of that revelation, but I lack belief, I just dont know what or how much is real anymore, I am just looking for something i will know will be God and not myself.

I am still somewhat troubled, but not nearly as I was months ago

Re: - posted by PaulWest (), on: 2011/2/21 21:24

Quote:

-----thank u sir, but I still am in the wilderness, i would love to accept it and not wonder if i just could.

Brother, I'm in the wilderness too; I type these words from the wilderness. All my ministry on Sermonindex is from the wilderness. But, paradoxically, the wilderness is a very blessed place to be. I say this because it is a blessed thing when God puts His divine spotlight on your hidden "self" and you suddenly see it squirm. This is how we are brought past the doors of exterior religion, of fundamentalist rhetoric, of sectarian wrangling and evangelical window-dressing and into a direct confrontation of the hideous reality of who we are, minus the grace the God. All outer religious commotion ceases to be an issue when you go through these dark doors and into the expanse beyond.

It is here where the cross is displayed in its true splendor and intention, while all else fades into oblivion. But to be brought to this place, we must be abased. Abasement and humility and meekness are all theoretical terms until a Christian is actually brought into the raw reality of his depravity before God. The way God achieves this is by allowing us to suffer, to hurt, to fail; to expend all our effort at trying to be good and well-pleasing in His eyes, only to fall short and self-destruct once again. It is solely by His grace that, despite our grief, a revelation of His love through the blood of Christ is yet again restored in our spirits - and not only that, but enriched.

We are daily being brought to the place of death, to absolute surrender, to a complete and divinely-coherent reckoning in our spirits to embrace our deaths in Christ.

Re: , on: 2011/2/21 22:15

Hi Brother ManofGOD. It's funny, but here we are with Brother Paul and I must confess - I have been to another Forum most of today and the reason is, out of respect for Paul and a few others, this other forum is about Current Events and lots of "prep" stuff.

Why else would I be there? Because the burden The LORD has placed on my heart since the first month I was saved is the suffering of the last days.

I can't give the link to that site until I can talk them out of watching Glen Beck and to ditch their guns & ammo or at the least - to not ever use them on human beings and only for food for their family, if necessary. I love animals too. Reckon I'll starve someday? :)

Brother, the threat is real - the times are getting very unsettled out there. This is absolutely no time to get strung out on oneself but to set your face like a flint to help others to get through the days ahead - so use your head and dump your "feelings". YOU have something to give to others that few will have. There isn't time anymore to play guessing games with a Living Christ. HE is REAL - more real than anything within your sight. He is Real!

Brother, for your family, for your other loved ones - Get Strong. Put others first! Please read the OP again and again until it sinks in. Perilous times are just ahead of us all and it's no time for any of us to wimp out (excuse the slang Brother Paul).

I speak Koine English.

Anyhow, why would I want them to stop watching Beck? Because of who owns that network - "Fox". But that's not to be a "topic" on this forum - but thought I should clear that part of my opening up and yes, I do know who'll be on with him tomorrow. Makes NO difference.

The main point that I'm driving at is - when things get really ripping - you are going to be needed - very much so and be asked for the reason for your "hope".

Buckle in now and the race is lost already - Don't do that - Eternity is at stake at this moment... live up to your name but drop the O's -- because you have no idea how many people you will help or save and when you see HIM, Face to face, you will want to see Him Smile.

Jesus has Blessed you from before the foundation of the earth, when the Lamb was slain in the heart and mind of our God, Who knew we couldn't ever do it without Him.
Set your eyes on Him and what He suffered in just His 3+ yrs of ministry and on Paul and the other martyrs since until even now.

Be Strong for The Prize = HIM!

Re: , on: 2011/2/23 3:59

Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. John 15:13

A medical explanation of what Jesus endured on the day He died
By Dr. C. Truman Davis
Originally published in Arizona Medicine,
March 1965, Arizona Medical Association.

Several years ago I became interested in the physical aspects of the passion, or suffering, of Jesus Christ when I read an account of the crucifixion in Jim Bishop's book, *The Day Christ Died*. I suddenly realized that I had taken the crucifixion more or less for granted all these years - that I had grown callous to its horror by a too-easy familiarity with the grim details. It finally occurred to me that, as a physician, I did not even know the actual immediate cause of Christ's death. The gospel writers do not help much on this point. Since crucifixion and scourging were so common during their lifetimes, they undoubtedly considered a detailed description superfluous. For that reason we have only the concise words of the evangelists: "Pilate, having scourged Jesus, delivered Him to them to be crucified ... and they crucified Him."

Despite the gospel accounts silence on the details of Christ's crucifixion, many have looked into this subject in the past. In my personal study of the event from a medical viewpoint, I am indebted especially to Dr. Pierre Barbet, a French surgeon who did exhaustive historical and experimental research and wrote extensively on the topic.

An attempt to examine the infinite psychic and spiritual suffering of the Incarnate God in atonement for the sins of fallen man is beyond the scope of this article. However, the physiological and anatomical aspects of our Lord's passion we can examine in some detail. What did the body of Jesus of Nazareth actually endure during those hours of torture?

Gethsemane

The physical passion of Christ began in Gethsemane. Of the many aspects of His initial suffering, the one which is of particular physiological interest is the bloody sweat. Interestingly enough, the physician, St. Luke, is the only evangelist to mention this occurrence. He says, "And being in an agony, he prayed the longer. And his sweat became as drops of blood, trickling down upon the ground" (Luke 22:44 KJV).

Every attempt imaginable has been used by modern scholars to explain away the phenomenon of bloody sweat, apparently under the mistaken impression that it simply does not occur. A great deal of effort could be saved by consulting the medical literature. Though very rare, the phenomenon of hematidrosis, or bloody sweat, is well documented. Under great emotional stress, tiny capillaries in the sweat glands can break, thus mixing blood with sweat. This process alone could have produced marked weakness and possible shock.

Although Jesus' betrayal and arrest are important portions of the passion story, the next event in the account which is significant from a medical perspective is His trial before the Sanhedrin and Caiaphas, the High Priest. Here the first physical trauma was inflicted. A soldier struck Jesus across the face for remaining silent when questioned by Caiaphas. The palace guards then blindfolded Him, mockingly taunted Him to identify them as each passed by, spat on Him, and struck Him in the face.

Before Pilate

In the early morning, battered and bruised, dehydrated, and worn out from a sleepless night, Jesus was taken across Jerusalem to the Praetorium of the Fortress Antonia, the seat of government of the Procurator of Judea, Pontius Pilate. We are familiar with Pilate's action in attempting to shift responsibility to Herod Antipas, the Tetrarch of Judea. Jesus apparently suffered no physical mistreatment at the hands of Herod and was returned to Pilate. It was then, in response to the

outcry of the mob, that Pilate ordered Barabbas released and condemned Jesus to scourging and crucifixion.

Preparations for Jesus' scourging were carried out at Caesar's orders. The prisoner was stripped of His clothing and His hands tied to a post above His head. The Roman legionnaire stepped forward with the flagrum, or flagellum, in his hand. This was a short whip consisting of several heavy, leather thongs with two small balls of lead attached near the ends of each. The heavy whip was brought down with full force again and again across Jesus' shoulders, back, and legs. At first the weighted thongs cut through the skin only. Then, as the blows continued, they cut deeper into the subcutaneous tissues, producing first an oozing of blood from the capillaries and veins of the skin and finally spurting arterial bleeding from vessels in the underlying muscles.

The small balls of lead first produced large deep bruises that were broken open by subsequent blows. Finally, the skin of the back was hanging in long ribbons, and the entire area was an unrecognizable mass of torn, bleeding tissue. When it was determined by the centurion in charge that the prisoner was near death, the beating was finally stopped.

Mockery

The half-fainting Jesus was then untied and allowed to slump to the stone pavement, wet with his own blood. The Roman soldiers saw a great joke in this provincial Jew claiming to be a king. They threw a robe across His shoulders and placed a stick in His hand for a scepter. They still needed a crown to make their travesty complete. Small flexible branches covered with long thorns, commonly used for kindling fires in the charcoal braziers in the courtyard, were plaited into the shape of a crude crown. The crown was pressed into his scalp and again there was copious bleeding as the thorns pierced the very vascular tissue. After mocking Him and striking Him across the face, the soldiers took the stick from His hand and struck Him across the head, driving the thorns deeper into His scalp. Finally, they tired of their sadistic sport and tore the robe from His back. The robe had already become adherent to the clots of blood and serum in the wounds, and its removal, just as in the careless removal of a surgical bandage, caused excruciating pain. The wounds again began to bleed.

Golgotha

In deference to Jewish custom, the Romans apparently returned His garments. The heavy patibulum of the cross was tied across His shoulders. The procession of the condemned Christ, two thieves, and the execution detail of Roman soldiers headed by a centurion began its slow journey along the route which we know today as the Via Dolorosa.

In spite of Jesus' efforts to walk erect, the weight of the heavy wooden beam, together with the shock produced by copious loss of blood, was too much. He stumbled and fell. The rough wood of the beam gouged into the lacerated skin and muscles of the shoulders. He tried to rise, but human muscles had been pushed beyond their endurance. The centurion, anxious to proceed with the crucifixion, selected a stalwart North African onlooker, Simon of Cyrene, to carry the cross. Jesus followed, still bleeding and sweating the cold, clammy sweat of shock. The 650-yard journey from the Fortress Antonia to Golgotha was finally completed. The prisoner was again stripped of His clothing except for a loin cloth which was allowed the Jews.

The crucifixion began. Jesus was offered wine mixed with myrrh, a mild analgesic, pain-relieving mixture. He refused the drink. Simon was ordered to place the patibulum on the ground, and Jesus was quickly thrown backward, with His shoulders against the wood. The legionnaire felt for the depression at the front of the wrist. He drove a heavy, square wrought-iron nail through the wrist and deep into the wood. Quickly, he moved to the other side and repeated the action, being careful not to pull the arms too tightly, but to allow some flexion and movement. The patibulum was then lifted into place at the top of the stipes, and the titulus reading "Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews" was nailed into place.

The left foot was pressed backward against the right foot. With both feet extended, toes down, a nail was driven through the arch of each, leaving the knees moderately flexed. The victim was now crucified.

On the Cross

As Jesus slowly sagged down with more weight on the nails in the wrists, excruciating, fiery pain shot along the fingers and up the arms to explode in the brain. The nails in the wrists were putting pressure on the median nerve, large nerve trunks which traverse the mid-wrist and hand. As He pushed himself upward to avoid this stretching torment, He placed His full weight on the nail through His feet. Again there was searing agony as the nail tore through the nerves between the metatarsal bones of this feet.

At this point, another phenomenon occurred. As the arms fatigued, great waves of cramps swept over the muscles, knotting them in deep relentless, throbbing pain. With these cramps came the inability to push Himself upward. Hanging by the arm, the pectoral muscles, the large muscles of the chest, were paralyzed and the intercostal muscles, the small muscles between the ribs, were unable to act. Air could be drawn into the lungs, but could not be exhaled. Jesus fought to raise Himself in order to get even one short breath. Finally, the carbon dioxide level increased in the lungs and in the blood stream, and the cramps partially subsided.

The Last Words

Spasmodically, He was able to push Himself upward to exhale and bring in life-giving oxygen. It was undoubtedly during these periods that He uttered the seven short sentences that are recorded.

The first - looking down at the Roman soldiers throwing dice for His seamless garment: "Father, forgive them for they do not know what they do."

The second - to the penitent thief: "Today, thou shalt be with me in Paradise."

The third - looking down at Mary His mother, He said: "Woman, behold your son." Then turning to the terrified, grief-stricken adolescent John, the beloved apostle, He said: "Behold your mother."

The fourth cry is from the beginning of Psalm 22: "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?"

He suffered hours of limitless pain, cycles of twisting, joint-rending cramps, intermittent partial asphyxiation, and searing pain as tissue was torn from His lacerated back from His movement up and down against the rough timbers of the cross. Then another agony began: a deep crushing pain in the chest as the pericardium, the sac surrounding the heart, slowly filled with serum and began to compress the heart.

The prophecy in Psalm 22:14 was being fulfilled: "I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint, my heart is like wax; it is melted in the midst of my bowels."

The end was rapidly approaching. The loss of tissue fluids had reached a critical level; the compressed heart was struggling to pump heavy, thick, sluggish blood to the tissues, and the tortured lungs were making a frantic effort to inhale small gulps of air. The markedly dehydrated tissues sent their flood of stimuli to the brain. Jesus gasped His fifth cry: "I thirst." Again we read in the prophetic psalm: "My strength is dried up like a potsherd; my tongue cleaveth to my jaws; and thou has brought me into the dust of death" (Psalm 22:15 KJV).

A sponge soaked in posca, the cheap, sour wine that was the staple drink of the Roman legionnaires, was lifted to Jesus' lips. His body was now in extremis, and He could feel the chill of death creeping through His tissues. This realization brought forth His sixth word, possibly little more than a tortured whisper: "It is finished." His mission of atonement had been completed. Finally, He could allow His body to die. With one last surge of strength, He once again pressed His torn feet against the nail, straightened His legs, took a deeper breath, and uttered His seventh and last cry: "Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit."

Death

The common method of ending a crucifixion was by crurifracture, the breaking of the bones of the leg. This prevented the victim from pushing himself upward; the tension could not be relieved from the muscles of the chest, and rapid suffocation occurred. The legs of the two thieves were broken, but when the soldiers approached Jesus, they saw that this was unnecessary.

Apparently, to make doubly sure of death, the legionnaire drove his lance between the ribs, upward through the pericardium and into the heart. John 19:34 states, "And immediately there came out blood and water." Thus there was an escape of watery fluid from the sac surrounding the heart and the blood of the interior of the heart. This is rather conclusive post-mortem evidence that Jesus died, not the usual crucifixion death by suffocation, but of heart failure due to shock and constriction of the heart by fluid in the pericardium.

Rom 5:6-8 For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

Re: - posted by ginnyrose (), on: 2011/2/23 10:03

Quote:
-----the wilderness is a very blessed place to be. I say this because it is a blessed thing when God puts His divine spotlight on your hidden "self" and you suddenly see it squirm. This is how we are brought past the doors of exterior religion, of fundamentalist rhetoric, of sectarian wrangling and evangelical window-dressing and into a direct confrontation of the hideous reality of who we are, minus the grace the God. All outer religious commotion ceases to be an issue when you go through these dark doors and into the expanse beyond.

Quote:
-----It is here where the cross is displayed in its true splendor and intention, while all else fades into oblivion. But to be brought to this place, we must be abased. Abasement and humility and meekness are all theoretical terms until a Christian is actually brought into the raw reality of his depravity before God. The way God achieves this is by allowing us to suffer, to hurt, to fail; to expend all our effort at trying to be good and well-pleasing in His eyes, only to fall short and self-destruct once again. It is solely by His grace that, despite our grief, a revelation of His love through the blood of Christ is yet again restored in our spirits - and not only that, but enriched. We are daily being brought to the place of death, to absolute surrender, to a complete and divinely-coherent reckoning in our spirits to embrace our deaths in Christ.

So true.

Re: - posted by ManofGod0000, on: 2011/2/23 10:07

Brothers, "Jesus-is-God" and Paul West,

A very sincere thank you for your responses, brother Paul, I had not heard such a response about the breaking and loss of self as I discovered in your response.

I will say this;

The only time I have ever gone through any thing or situation quite the way in which this feels was when I was a "crackhead", I called helplines because I felt so lonely and helpless, and I just didn't know what to do or if it would ever end, but God..... And as I think about this, I am welting up with tears even as I type.

I had a very dysfunctional childhood with a father that was emotionless and believed that children are to be seen and not heard, but he had and he still has pain today, and I find myself feeling for him. My heart does go out to my pappy, I love him, he is a good solid man, he just did what he was taught.

Praise God for him! he is a man of God that always seeks to please his Heavenly Father.

I went through a very shaky time here in the last year, thought I would have to be committed to a hospital during nursing school, even went to the ER with a change of clothes about to be thrown in the towel on Nursing School, but GOD.....

I still tend to analyze my feelings and my thoughts because they are sometimes all over the place, I do not like taking medicine. I still get symptoms of anxiety, I hear lies throughout the day, all lies, but they are nagging, and I would like them to go away, but I really do not know how to feel brand new again.....

I seek Joy, the Lord's joy, not happiness or fleeting emotions, but I seek to harvest and carry with me everyday a blessed

assurance, I seek this, once and for all. I have abandoned religion and many so called church services, not out of self-righteousness, but I need to know God in practice, in simplicity, not tomorrow, but today, right now.

My faith increases everyday and God is a good God everyday.

I just want to tie up what I read with what I am to live, I don't feel the connection sometimes.

Thank you brothers and sisters, With Sincerity and openness,
EJ or manofgod

Re: - posted by ManofGod0000, on: 2011/2/23 10:43

The wilderness, I do not see or have accepted, nor do I feel it working as such a blessed experience or a blessed place.

I would like to but I do not know how at this moment

James 5:10,11, on: 2011/2/23 12:23

"The Agony of Love" by Dr. Mark Eastman

On the evening before His crucifixion Jesus was gathered with His disciples in the upper room, sharing with them some of the most intimate truths of His entire ministry. As He discussed the love of the Father and His love for His disciples he declared:

Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. John 15:13

Though they did not realize it at the time, the disciples were only hours from the practical realization of this truth. One of the subtle evidences of the supernatural origin of the Biblical text is that astonishing events are often described in extremely brief narratives.

This is perhaps best illustrated in the matter-of-fact way in which the crucifixion of Jesus Christ - the most pivotal event in the history of the universe - is described in the Gospel accounts.

After Jesus was examined and declared to be without fault by the Roman Procurator Pontius Pilate, he delivered Him to be judged by the assembled crowd. When the opportunity arose to decide the destiny of Jesus, the crowd and the Jewish leadership cried out saying,
"Crucify Him, crucify Him."

The horrifying events of the next six hours were preceded by the simple words:

Then delivered he Him therefore unto them to be crucified. And they took Jesus, and led him away. John 19:16

"Great Drops of Blood"

The physical suffering of Jesus began in the Garden of Gethsemane on the evening before His crucifixion. While the disciples slept, the Gospel of Luke records that the LORD "being in an agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground."

The notion that someone could actually sweat blood seems contrived. However, there is a rare but recognized condition called hematochezia, in which capillary blood vessels that feed the sweat glands rupture, causing them to express blood. This usually occurs under conditions of extreme physical or emotional stress. Jesus wasn't sweating blood because he was afraid of the physical pain of the cross. Indeed, the book of Hebrews tells us that Jesus looked forward to the cross:

Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Hebrews 12:2

The Trials

After Jesus' arrest they led Him away to the High Priest Caiaphas, where the Scribes and elders were assembled. During this inquisition we are told that "some began to spit on Him, and to blindfold Him, and to beat Him, and to say to Him, 'Prophecy!' And the officers struck Him with the palms of their hands."

Beatings about the face received by a blindfolded individual cause even worse trauma because the victim cannot "roll with the punches." In the hours that followed Jesus received two additional beatings at the hands of Roman soldiers.

Severe disfigurement of the face would certainly have resulted from the brutal treatment.

It is likely that the eyelids were swollen shut as a result of such beatings. This was done in fulfillment of Isaiah 52:13-14

"Behold, my servant shall deal prudently, he shall be exalted and extolled, and be very high...

As many were astonished at thee; his visage was so marred more than any man, and his form more than the sons of men."

The Scourging

After His trial before Pontius Pilate, Jesus was scourged (flogged) by the Roman guards. This process typically involved a whip with numerous leather thongs, 18-24 inches long, with bits of metal, bone or glass embedded in the leather. At times they would use an iron rod to beat the prisoner. According to Jewish custom, a prisoner was usually flogged 39 times (Forty minus one was a sign of Jewish mercy!)

Scourging was an extreme form of punishment.

The skin on the victim's back was usually shredded, thus exposing the underlying muscle and skeletal structures. Severe blood loss and dehydration were the rule. Many victims died from such scourging.

After the scourging of Jesus, the Roman soldiers beat Him a second time with their hands and with a reed. Then they put on him a "crown of thorns."

Jesus had not drunk since the night before, so the combination of the beatings, the crown of thorns, and the scourging would have set into motion an irreversible process of severe dehydration and cardiorespiratory failure.

All of this was done so that the prophecy of Isaiah would be fulfilled:

I gave my back to the smiters, and my cheeks to them that plucked off the hair: I hid not my face from shame and spitting. Isaiah 50:6

And:

But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. Isaiah 53:5

Crucifixion

Crucifixion was invented by the Persians between 300-400 b.c. It was "perfected" by the Romans in the first century b.c. It is arguably the most painful death ever invented by man and is where we get our term "excruciating." It was reserved primarily for the most vicious of criminals.

The most common device used for crucifixion was a wooden cross, which consisted of an upright pole permanently fixed in the ground with a removable crossbar, usually weighing between 75-100 lbs. Victims of crucifixion were typically stripped naked and their clothing divided by the Roman guards. In Jesus' case this was done in fulfillment of Psalm 22:18, "They divide My garments among them, and for My clothing they cast lots."

As a gesture of "Roman kindness" the prisoner was offered a mixture of vinegar (gall) and wine as a mild anesthetic. Thi

s anesthetic was refused by Jesus. Consequently, He bore it all! The Apostle Peter stated of Jesus:

Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed. 1 Peter 2:24

The victim was then placed on his back, arms stretched out and nailed to the cross bar. The nails, which were generally about 7-9 inches long, were placed between the bones of the forearm (the radius and ulna) and the small bones of the hands (the carpal bones).

The placement of the nail at this point had several effects. First it ensured that the victim would indeed hang there until dead. Secondly, a nail placed at this point would sever the largest nerve in the hand called the median nerve.

The severing of this nerve is a medical catastrophe. In addition to severe burning pain the destruction of this nerve causes permanent paralysis of the hand. Furthermore, by nailing the victim at this point in the wrist, there would be minimal bleeding and there would be no bones broken! Thus scriptures were fulfilled:

I can count all my bones: they look and stare upon me. Psalm 22:17

He keepeth all his bones: not one of them is broken. Psalm 34:20

The positioning of the feet is probably the most critical part of the mechanics of crucifixion. First the knees were flexed about 45 degrees and the feet were flexed (bent downward) an additional 45 degrees until they were parallel the vertical pole. An iron nail about 7-9 inches long was driven through the feet between the 2nd and 3rd metatarsal bones. In this position the nail would sever the dorsal pedal artery of the foot, but the resultant bleeding would be insufficient to cause death.

The Catastrophic Result

The resulting position on the cross sets up a horrific sequence of events which results in a slow, painful death. Having been pinned to the cross, the victim now has an impossible position to maintain.

With the knees flexed at about 45 degrees, the victim must bear his weight with the muscles of the thigh. However, this is an almost impossible task-try to stand with your knees flexed at 45 degrees for 5 minutes.

As the strength of the legs gives out, the weight of the body must now be borne by the arms and shoulders. The result is that within a few minutes of being placed on the cross, the shoulders will become dislocated. Minutes later the elbows and wrists become dislocated. The result of these dislocations is that the arms are as much as 6-9 inches longer than normal.

With the arms dislocated, considerable body weight is transferred to the chest, causing the rib cage to be elevated in a state of perpetual inhalation. Consequently, in order to exhale the victim must push down on his feet to allow the rib muscles to relax. The problem is that the victim cannot push very long because the legs are extremely fatigued. As time goes on, the victim is less and less able to bear weight on the legs, causing further dislocation of the arms and further raising of the chest wall, making breathing more and more difficult.

The result of this process is a series of catastrophic physiological effects. Because the victim cannot maintain adequate ventilation of the lungs, the blood oxygen level begins to diminish and the blood carbon dioxide (CO₂) level begins to rise. This rising CO₂ level stimulates the heart to beat faster in order to increase the delivery of oxygen and the removal of CO₂.

However, due to the pinning of the victim and the limitations of oxygen delivery, the victim cannot deliver more oxygen and the rising heart rate only increases oxygen demand. So this process sets up a vicious cycle of increasing oxygen demand-which cannot be met-followed by an ever increasing heart rate. After several hours the heart begins to fail, the lungs collapse and fill up with fluid, which further decreases oxygen delivery to the tissues. The blood loss and hyperventilation combines to cause severe dehydration. That's why Jesus said, "I thirst."

Over a period of several hours the combination of collapsing lungs, a failing heart, dehydration, and the inability to get adequate oxygen supplies to the tissues cause the eventual death of the victim. The victim, in effect, cannot breathe properly and slowly suffocates to death. In cases of severe cardiac stress, such as crucifixion, a victim's heart can even burst.

This process is called "Cardiac Rupture." Therefore it could be said that Jesus died of a "broken heart!"

To slow the process of death the executioners put a small wooden seat on the cross, which would allow the victim the privilege of bearing his weight on his buttocks. The effect of this was that it could take up to nine days to die on a cross.

When the Romans wanted to expedite death they would simply break the legs of the victim, causing him to suffocate in a matter of minutes. At three o'clock in the afternoon Jesus said, "Tetelastai," meaning "it is finished." Then He gave up the ghost. When the soldiers came to Jesus to break His legs, He was already dead. Not a bone of Him was broken!

Rom 5:10 For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of His Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.

Re: James 5:10,11 - posted by ManofGod0000, on: 2011/2/23 18:58

Thank again "Jesus-is-God"

Re: , on: 2011/2/23 20:50

Bless you Brother!

Someone sent me this today - Luke 22:31,32

I did a study on those with the e-sword and found some very encouraging things in the dictionaries and Barnes and Clarke's commentaries. Good reading!

Pray one for another. thanks!

"HIM", on: 2011/2/23 20:55

Hebrews 2:17 Wherefore in all things it behoved Him to be made like unto His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people.

(3:1) Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus

(4:15) For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.

(5:2-5) Who can have compassion on the ignorant, and on them that are out of the way; for that He Himself also is compassed with infirmity. And by reason hereof he ought, as for the people, so also for himself, to offer for sins. And no man taketh this honour unto himself, but He that is called of God, as was Aaron. So also Christ glorified not Himself to be made an high priest; but He that said unto Him, Thou art my Son, today have I begotten thee.

(6:18-20) That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us: which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil; whither the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus, made an high priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec.

(7:25-27) Wherefore He is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by Him, seeing He ever liveth to make intercession for them. For such an high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens; Who needeth not daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifice, first for his own sins, and then for the people's: for this He did once, when He offered up Himself.

(8:1,2) Now of the things which we have spoken this is the sum: We have such an high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens; A minister of the sanctuary, and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man.

(9:28) So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for Him shall He appear the second time without sin unto salvation.

(10:12, 13) But this man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God; From henceforth expecting till His enemies be made His footstool.

(13:12-14) Wherefore Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people with His own blood, suffered without the gate. Let us go forth therefore unto Him without the camp, bearing His reproach.

For here have we no continuing city, but we seek one to come.

~*~

"I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty."

And I turned to see the voice that spake with me and being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks; and in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle. His head and His hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and His eyes were as a flame of fire; and His feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and His voice as the sound of many waters. And He had in His right hand seven stars: and out of His mouth went a sharp twoedged sword: and His countenance was as the sun shineth in His strength.

And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. And He laid His right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last: I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.

"Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth."

And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and He that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He doth judge and make war. His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on His Head were many crowns; and He had a Name written, that no man knew, but He Himself and He was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and His name is called The Word of God ... and out of His mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it He should smite the nations: and He shall rule them with a rod of iron: and He treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And He hath on His vesture and on His thigh a Name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.

And the nations were angry, and Thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that Thou shouldest give reward unto Thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear Thy Name, small and great; and shouldest destroy them which destroy the earth.

~*~

Php 3:20,21 For our conversation is in Heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby He is able even to subdue all things unto Himself. (4:1) Therefore, my brethren dearly beloved and longed for, my joy and crown, so stand fast in the Lord, my dearly beloved.

John 14:1-4 Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me... I go to prepare a place for you and if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also. And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know. (26,27) But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, He shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you. Peace I leave with you, My peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

Tit 2:13-15 Looking for that Blessed Hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; Who gave himself for us, that He might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto Himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

These things speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no man despise thee.

Amen!

Re: "HIM", on: 2011/2/25 12:32

Dear brothers and sisters,

"Walk in the Spirit..." (Galatians 5:16).

I am sorry I would have liked to paint the beautiful shining faces of Christians in Communist jail. Their faces shone, and it was quite an achievement for the glory of God to shine on the face of a Christian in Communist jails. We did not wash (I had not washed in three years), but the glory of God can shine even from behind a crust of dirt. They had triumphant smiles on their faces.

I know about Christians who were released from Communist prisons. I was one who was stopped several times on the street by passersby asking, "Sir, what is it in you? You look like such a happy man. What is the source of your happiness?" I told them that I came from many years in Communist jails.

They could not understand this because they could not think beyond the difficulties of their own lives. They had not learned to walk in the Spirit and to experience the presence of God. So many would think, "If only you knew what a life I have - a husband who batters me, a wife who nags, children who break my heart - there are so many things." There are many material difficulties, tempests in your soul. I know these difficulties exist.

Horev was a Russian Christian who was in jail for many years. His father died in the same jail. Horev wrote in a letter, which he smuggled out from prison, that he was placed in a cell with common criminals. What they did to Christians is unimaginable.

The criminals beat Horev until he fell unconscious. When he came to, he heard them talking among themselves, "We should grease some rope and hang him tonight." The others refused, because that was too complicated. They had better cut his throat and then place the bloody knife in his hand so it would look like suicide. That was the talk among them. You could believe it, because they did these things.

Then, walking in the Spirit, Horev envisioned another world for himself and said, "How beautiful it will be after they have cut my throat." He saw the angels receiving him, taking him in their arms to bring him to the bosom of Abraham. He saw himself encountering the martyrs of old. He enjoyed these things. He slept the whole night very quietly.

The next day, the criminals again beat him, and in the evening they talked about killing him. Horev said to himself, "But my father has died in this place. What an honor for me, and what a joy for my father, that I was not afraid and that I walked in his footsteps and will see Jesus." In thinking about this world that he envisioned for himself, he slept again quietly. It continued on like this until the eighteenth day, when he was moved from that jail. What he wrote is so beautiful: "I had to leave the cell. The criminal who had intended to cut my throat came to me, shook my hand, and said, 'Truly, there is something supernatural in you.'"

What in the world does a criminal know about the supernatural? Horev was a page of the Bible, "an epistle of Christ ...written not with ink, but by the Spirit of the Living God" (2 Corinthians 3:3). The criminal knew from Horev, not from the Bible, that Horev belongs to Another. He has a divine nature. "There must be a God," the criminal said. "Every time we spoke about you, you were asleep and we did not think that you heard us. You kept your eyes closed. Why did you not jump at us? How could you sleep quietly and peacefully? Only one who really believes in eternal life can do this."

The criminal continued, "When you were taken for walk in the prison yard, you could have reported to the guard about us and requested to be placed in another cell. That is what is usually done, but you never did it. Why? Why did you come back? Why did you not seek help with any man except with your God? Why did you pray on your knees every morning and every evening? You knew that we could kill you, as we have killed so many. Why did you give yourself quietly every day into our hands? This is incomprehensible for us. Really, you have something supernatural in you." Once again he shook Horev's hand and that is how they parted.

Horev did not live in this world.

We all expect that Jesus will come again and rapture us to heaven. No one will be raptured, I can assure you, if Christ hasn't raptured his heart already. No one will be in heaven if he is not in heaven already, if he does not live here in an entirely different world than the material world that surrounds us.

So whatever your circumstances - which initial be terrible for some of you - don't live this life. Live the new life, the eternal life, the timeless life, to which we are called by Jesus.

We were in prison cells with believers sentenced to death. As often as the door was unlocked, the prisoner did not know if he would be taken to a bath, to an interrogation or to be shot. Yet there was such a peace. There was no difference for him because he knew he had eternal life.

I belong to the family of God. I have the nature of God. Because I also have the nature of a man, I know I may live sixty or eighty years. Since I have the nature of God, who in the world can kill me? Men can change only my outward form, but I will live in other circumstances.

We saw this peace - the peace of those who understood that godly nature - and I plead with you for this. You have your difficulties. You have your crosses. Trust in the God who makes faces to shine and know that in Him you have eternal life.

Sincerely,

Pastor Richard Wurmbbrand

<http://members.cox.net/wurmbbrand/wurmbbrandbio.html>

Re: - posted by Joyful_Heart, on: 2011/2/25 12:41

We serve an awesome God. This and all the testimonies of late are really encouraging me onward and upward. The seeds are going deep into my soul and all I can say is thank You Jesus for who You are. A faithful, loving, caring, Savior and so much more. You are worthy my Lord, You are worthy of all of our surrender. Amen and Amen.

Thank You for posting this Jesus Is God!

Re: - posted by ManofGod0000, on: 2011/2/25 18:10

That sounds great for you Joyful heart, but when ur going through is there a point where u have absolute peace in the storm. I want to be able to rest in the storm , i really do, I am full of struggling, I just want to rest in my faith.

In the midst of the storm, when u do not understand there are thoughts and ideas that are right there with you, it is scary or very uncharted waters that we walk.

Re: - posted by PaulWest (), on: 2011/2/25 20:25

Quote:

-----I want to be able to rest in the storm , i really do, I am full of struggling, I just want to rest in my faith.

The illustration for this is, of course, Jesus Christ fast asleep in the boat while the fearful disciples struggled against the storm. The Lord slept on until He was awoken by their cries: "Master awake! We perish!"

His simple answer was, "Oh ye of little faith." And then He calmed the storm as though it were nothing.

Shift this scenario now into the spiritual and we see nothing has changed in 2011: we still have storms, and during these storms, it seems as though the Lord is sleeping. We know He is all-powerful, we acknowledge the Word of God is perfect, and we recount the flawless track-record of His provision and rescue in our lives for every storm in our past. Was there ever storm that completely slammed and sunk our boat in the Sea of Galilee which is our life? Yet, knowing the power of

General Topics :: For the Hurting

God, and having absolutely no justification to even doubt for a moment His efficacy for this present storm, we nonetheless continue to struggle, to fear, to yet again cry out "save me!" in yet another fit of frenzied, faithless exasperation.

Yet the Lord would again teach us the principle of "rest" in the midst of the storm. As Christ demonstrates this rest in His Father by sleeping in the boat in the midst of the waves and wind, so we are to take note and seek our peaceful rest in Him in the boat of our spirits. Do you have faith for this? Faith even now to drop the shredded mast, the ropes, the bailing buckets, and just crawl beside the Master fast asleep in the hull and lay your head into His breast? You too will be asleep, as it were, in no time. Sleeping in Christ, at rest, despite all the outer turmoil. Remember, the Lord said: "Why were you afraid, O ye of little faith?"

When we go through storms in life, it is perfectly natural to not understand a thing. It is natural that your theology is put to the test, that your flesh is rendered futile and that even your inner, sacred thoughts begin to lay siege against you. Like a tornado easily uproots trees, God sometimes brings storms to uproot ill-anchored convictions and concepts that are not foundationed solely in Christ. Do you trust in Bible study to get you through a storm? God will uproot that tree. Do you trust in your devotion life and prayer? God can uproot that tree too, to where the Bible is a book of lead and prayer is lifeless and hollow. Do you trust in men - your pastor, for example, to "pray you through the storm"? God will uproot that tree as well, and cause Him to fail to meet your expectations. These are all examples of struggle on our part, to resist the storm and establish some sort of plumb line that we can regulate and manipulate and engineer within ourselves for survival.

God knows us perfectly, and He knows when we've come to rely on this method of survival and personal enrichment. And so what does He do? He brings a tremendous storm, a hurricane, to uproot all the false gold we hold sacred. In one sweeping move He shows us all our prized diamonds are, in fact, mere glass if they are not predicated in Christ alone.

Brother Paul

Re: For the Hurting , on: 2011/2/26 13:17

"A merry heart doeth good like a medicine"

King Solomon left among his wise sayings a prescription for sick and sad hearts, and it is one that we can safely take. A merry heart doeth good like a medicine. Joy is the great restorer and healer. Gladness of spirit will bring health to the bones and vitality to the nerves when all other tonics fail and all other sedatives cease to quiet. Are you ill? Begin to rejoice in the Lord, and your bones will flourish like an herb, and your cheeks will glow with the bloom of health and freshness. Worry, fear, distrust, care-all are poisonous! joy is balm and healing, and if you will but rejoice, God will give power. He has commanded you to be glad and rejoice, and He never fails to sustain His children in keeping His commandments. Rejoice in the Lord always, He says. This means no matter how sad, how tempted, how sick, how suffering you are, rejoice in the Lord just where you are-and begin this moment. The joy of the Lord is the strength of our body, The gladness of Jesus, the balm for our pain, His life and His fullness, our fountain of healing, His joy, our elixir for body and brain.

A.B. Simpson

Re: , on: 2011/3/4 9:44

COVER LETTER from a 2011 David Wilkerson Newsletter

Dearly Beloved:

MANY ASK, "WHY ME, LORD?"

At this very moment, a great number of God's choicest servants are being sorely tested and tried. Maybe you are being overwhelmed right now by sudden afflictions, fiery trials, incredible times of stress. Your trial could be spiritual, financial or emotional.

Perhaps as you read this message, you have convinced yourself that you are under judgment—under the wrath and rod of God. The thought comes to you over and over, that you're going through this because you've failed God. You're in

the fire of affliction because he has turned you over to the devil to chasten you. Many ask, "Why me, Lord?"

Beloved, when you are going through the fire or the flood, you dare not trust your own understanding. You cannot reason your way through hard times. Your own thoughts about your testing will deceive you.

The writer of Psalm 66 said, "For thou, O God, hast proved us: thou hast tried us, as silver is tried" (verse 10). He is saying, "This is all God's doing. He has led you into this trial for a special purpose. God is proving you. It is not the work of the devil." No matter what you're going through, you can rest assured that the Lord is behind it. He is testing you, trying you, in order to bring something glorious out of you—and that is a total confidence in his faithfulness. But then the Psalm writer goes further: "Thou broughtest us into the net; thou laidst affliction upon our loins" (verse 11). He says it was God who led you into the net! God laid this heavy burden on you. He weighed you down. Our human understanding cannot comprehend such a thing. Our reasoning tells us, "The devil is trying to kill me. He has put afflictions and great burdens on me. He is trying to shipwreck me." Yet, from cover to cover, the Bible makes it clear that all our purgings and testings come from the Father—not from Satan. "I will turn my hand upon thee, and purely purge away thy dross, and take away all thy sin" (Isaiah 1:25).

I have stopped asking God why I have to go through such fires and floods—because through them all I am learning something of his ways. God tells us, "Think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: but rejoice" (1 Peter 4:12-13).

Dear saint, stop trying to figure out your trials. Stop asking, "God, why am I having to endure this battle?" Put aside your human reasoning and rest in this thought: "God is doing something in me. God's hand is in this!" You may not like the testing you're in; it may seem overwhelming. But God has never left you alone in your trial. Even when you feel you've failed him, God is there all the time.

The Psalmist said, "(He) holdeth our soul in life, and suffereth not our feet to be moved" (Psalm 66:9). He is saying, "God is holding my soul in his life. He will not let my feet slip under me. He is holding me steady until all of this passes." Here is the testimony of those who do not panic but trust God in it all: "Thou broughtest us out into a wealthy place" (verse 12).

Beloved, do not listen to what your fears may whisper to you. Forget trying to understand it all. Just stand still—trust—and see God's hand at work. He will bring you out of it and into a fruitful place. And you'll be burning with a testimony to the utter faithfulness of your God. Hallelujah!

Click here for the rest of this message from the Newsletter - "You Have A Comforter" - maybe, save page to read later - <http://www.worldchallenge.org/node/10973>

Re: - posted by ManofGod0000, on: 2011/3/4 11:20

My reply to you:

Brother Paul, I want to thank you for the document with the explanation of the storm that Jesus rested in

No bro, I really thank u for this document .

Now here is my next question,

It appears as though I am constantly trying to understand what i am going through. I wake up wondering how difficult the fight will be from day to day, instead of just living. I will survive, i will fight, I will do whatever i have to do to feel and live victorious and smile with face filled with joy.

Happiness is fleeting, i want the joy of Christ from day to day, but it is almost as if there is a cloud blocking the formation of that beautiful smile from day to day, but i find a reason daily to smile, for even my heart to make a nice big smile concerning all that is good and precious in my life.

I shall not be moved, it hurts at times more than others, I am vexed sometimes, I weep, but I shall not be moved, just like a tree planted by the waters, I shall not be moved!!!!!!!!!!!!

thank you friends here at SI, I thoroughly appreciate this particular website, the genuine people, the precious alliance of

General Topics :: For the Hurting

believers , and the prayers I feel, for my prayers dont quite feel like yours, but i pray anyway, believing in my saviour to make me on that painful and hurtful potters wheel that doesnt seem to spare any of us.

thanks again saints

Re: - posted by ManofGod0000, on: 2011/3/6 12:29

Thank the Lord for u all here at SI

Re: For the hurting -, on: 2011/3/7 2:51

- Praise GOD, the resources are endless - even on this topic.

<https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/mydownloads/viewcat.php?cid=14&min=0&orderby=titleA&show=20>

Re: - posted by ManofGod0000, on: 2011/3/7 10:12

Thank you brother for that link, I will pay it a visit

Re: , on: 2011/3/7 12:06

Amen Brother - Thank SermonIndex for carrying her and all the others who stood the test of time. Bless GOD!

Re: , on: 2011/3/8 0:35

Why is GOD's Strength Made Perfect in our weakness -

<http://sermon3a.tscnyc.ws/2011/mp3g/20110123S1.mp3>

Re: , on: 2011/3/9 9:37

This one phew!

<http://sermon3a.tscnyc.ws/2011/mp3g/20110109S1.mp3> Praise GOD!

Re: - posted by ManofGod0000, on: 2011/3/9 10:38

My brother, that is the one I also need most.

I will dive into brother conlon here shortly

What i do understand is that faith does come from hearing God's word spoken, read, heard, whether it be from external or internal forces.

Re: , on: 2011/3/9 21:07

No question about it. There's only one Bread of Life. Both Himself and His Words written.

The LORD Bless you with His Shalom.
Your Sister

General Topics :: For the Hurting

Re: - posted by ManofGod0000, on: 2011/3/12 17:09

Brother and sisters keep me in your prayers, I did not pass my nursing boards, and it has me somewhat discouraged, but I can never understand what the Japanese people are going through....

Re: - posted by mama27, on: 2011/3/12 17:37

So sorry.....I have been praying for you.....there was a recent thread from Streams in the Desert called something like "T his thing is from Me...." I think you can search it...

Re: - posted by ManofGod0000, on: 2011/3/12 19:35

Thanx mama,

definitely not the end of the world, not even close to it, life is beautiful knowing I can have my wonderful saviour by my side even when I just don't understand.

May the strength and help of God be with the Japanese, the New Zealanders, and the Chinese, and all others that have had or will endure disaster...

Love u mama, just for caring

Re: - posted by mama27, on: 2011/3/12 20:01

Well, it sounds like you're in a better place than many...Continued blessings on your home and family!

Re: , on: 2011/3/12 21:53

Two years ago, I was going through a very difficult time in my Christian walk. I was having to make a very difficult decision. I was hurting, I was confused, and I confess I was afraid. I had prayed and believed I had the Lord's direction on the matter, but yet I doubted, not God's willingness and ability to speak to me, one of His sheep, but my ability to discern His voice. I didn't feel free to share the details of the situation with anyone except my husband, who is always very supportive, but because he is not a Christian, it's hard for him to always understand. I did share it with him, but I desperately needed to share it with someone Christian, for someone to know the entire situation who I knew would be faithful to pray and to pray God's will and not mine. I had been on the World Challenge, Inc. mailing list for several years and had written to them on occasion with prayer requests and such, so I sat down and poured my heart out in a letter, requesting prayer, not expecting a response. It helped just to know that someone would be praying.....Soon after I received an envelop in the mail with a short note which read:

Quote:

-----Dear Drema,

Thank you for writing to our ministry...

We want to encourage you in the Lord. In the enclosed newsletter Rev. Wilkerson states "GOD HAS NOT FORGOTTEN YOU! He knows exactly where you are, and what you are going through right now, and He is monitoring every step along your path."

Please know we are praying for you as you make a decision about ****edited****. May God bless you and keep you in His wonderful mercy and grace.

In His service,

****edited****

Correspondence Assistant

I will always be grateful to the Lord for the person who sent this to me. God used the message in that newsletter to minister mightily to my heart. He gave me peace about the situation, courage to continue moving forward and the absolute assurance that He was holding me in His hand, that His promises were rock solid and that by His grace and mercy I was going to be o.k. I've read it several times over the past two years and the Lord still speaks to my heart through it every time. I've included the link to the newsletter below, in hopes that it might encourage and comfort someone else.

GOD HAS NOT FORGOTTEN YOU by David Wilkerson

https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/newbb/viewtopic.php?topic_id=38085&forum=34&0

Re: , on: 2011/3/12 23:42

Beautiful!!!

Thank you for the smile.

Re: - posted by ManofGod0000, on: 2011/3/13 12:40

Wow, that was beautiful Drema,

I woke up this morning feeling very lost, forgotten, and totally broken. I just failed to progress on a major examination, that has wheeled at my confidence, my intelligence, and my ability.....

I woke up just in tears, I have no joy right now, none that I can think of, my disappointment has overwhelmed me, and I can find no place to rest my heavy heart....

When Oh God, I know it might be wrong for me to think of only myself during this time, when so many have it worst, but I am cast down, I do not know the God I have professed for so long, no matter how much I attempt to hope in him or confess.

I am filled with abandonment, yes, I do feel like I am in somewhat of a pity party, but I am in anguish wondering when the lifter of my head, that is, if there is one, will come and redeem me either from this place, or he can give me the nuggets I need to bear this "place" courageously and joyfully.

My bones feel broken, I do not know which way is up or down currently, I am filled with despair, but I do continue to have an inkling of faith in the creator to somehow care for me.

From my heart,
MoG0000, hard to even call myself a man of God right now

Re: , on: 2011/3/13 14:27

Brother, do you believe that you could be content in just knowing that many of us are praying that you'll come through and that after you have been tested, you'll comfort your brethren one day soon enough?

I pray so, because we are in your corner praying.

Even though sometimes GOD doesn't give others 'words' for us - their prayers are effectual. And because we pretty much have all been where you are and had to go through it by ourselves as well - with "just" The Prayers of the Saints - we can testify that it was surely worth learning and growing with Just Him as our answer-er.

Many of us have been through probably more than you'd ever guess - and alone.

Bless you & may He keep you and open the eyes of your understanding by fellowshipping here with us, all!

Re: - posted by mama27, on: 2011/3/13 14:37

Ditto to Jesus-is-God's post.....

Re: - posted by ManofGod0000, on: 2011/3/13 16:00

This is in reply to Jesus-is-God,

Brothers n sisters,

My bones feel Broken, I am a 40 plus old man who has been all of life as I would put it, but right now, I feel abandoned. Yes, I can believe in the fact that some very powerful people are praying for me, the saints, the saints of scripture. Yes I

can believe that!

I have been a crack addict and iv drug user fro

The age of 16-19, I have gone to war, desert storm/ shield, I have had a terrible upbringing, I have been through many trials in between, an too many To , this one has taken a lot out of me, it

Has dealt with my Mind More than ever, this one is tough, and I will

Survive, I will

Come through but it is tough in the meantime.

Thank u friends

Re: , on: 2011/3/14 1:50

Dear ManOfGOD. I sat here just praying over this page of this thread after reading your last post.

Well, I can't go into my life story but I can tell you dear Brother what helped me.

I'll be 58 next week - the day of the "super-moon" :) - Look out, they say, that may give some of us a documentable reason to get looney. (jk) But, as a medical person, you may have heard of the affects it has on patients, such as in Nursing Homes, even during just a normal full moon.

Anyhow, my suggestion above was to hang-out here and believe that others are holding up your arms in prayer. Yes, th at helps more than going it completely alone but besides doing that, for me, back when my life was as hard as you can i magine, some years back - I finally found a good pastor who seemed to see right through me and a great bunch of peopl e in that fellowship.

That pastor's door & phone-line was open to me, any time I needed to talk. And also the Senior's group. All those folks 20 yrs or more older than me. And then also - two friends who I could call from other States as well. But it was, at that ti me, that I learned that face to face contact with a caring person did more for me than anything else.

I just said all of that to ask - have you anywhere that you could go to talk?

Having someone you can sit and talk to and then call when it's really tough?

I learned so much from that church. It was a PCA church.

I don't know what State you're in, but you could do a search of any PCA churches in your area. In the U.S., the north is much different than the south, as far as churches go. I tried the PCA up here in the north and it's not the same as the on e I'm still a member of down south - but that may not be the case where you are.

A fellowship or church doesn't have to be PCA to have a fantastic pastor though. I'm sure you know that.

You need a strong man of GOD to talk to face to face Brother and I only say that from my years of being crushed as well . Just knowing that someone is carrying your burden with you is like taking the weight of a tractor trailer off your back - a men!

We'll pray you find such a friend in your area. OK?

You have the best friend in Jesus - you know that - but He uses the "each other" principle as well or very much so, at tim es.

Hang in there and try to focus on others too. That kept me sane - bottomline and you can do that too!

Hang in there - OK?!

What does it matter if external circumstances are hard? Why should they not be! If we give way to self-pity and indulge in the luxury of misery, we banish God's riches from our own lives and hinder others from entering into His provision. No sin is worse than the sin of self-pity, because it obliterates God and puts self-interest upon the throne.
My Utmost for His Highest, May 16, 781 L

Re: - posted by Christinyou (), on: 2011/3/20 12:02

John 10:27-30 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand. I and my Father are one.

We can't even take ourselves out of His hands. There is one that would like us to think we can, that he might destroy our witness for Him that gave His life for ours.

I have been there, done that; believe I am lost. But the scripture keeps screaming out, you are mine and I will never lose you, I paid the price. Yes Jesus is real and He is in me and will never leave me. Paul says we are perfect in His life that is in us. I am His and He is mine. There is no other life I can claim, for He has claimed I am HIS. This is my glory, not what I think or feel, but what God has said and done, that is the only real in my life.

Colossians 1:25-29 Whereof I am made a minister, according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you, to fulfil the word of God; Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints: To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory: Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus: Whereunto I also labour, striving according to his working, which worketh in me mightily.

From Paul and every one else that is in Christ and knows that the only life we have is the Christ Life in us.

In Christ, whom I cannot leave: Phillip

Re: For the Hurting - posted by Zionshield (), on: 2011/3/20 23:01

Oh for a stronger word than amen! What a pearl of an article!

Re: For the Hurting ~, on: 2011/3/26 16:11

Bless you & Good to see you Zionshield!

"DISASTER"

There are people to-day who are going through an onslaught of destruction that paralyses all our platitudes and preaching; the only thing that will bring relief is the consolations of Christ. It is a good thing to feel our own powerlessness in the face of destruction; it makes us know how much we depend upon God.

Baffled to Fight Better, 47 R

The greatest demand God makes of us is to believe that He is righteous when everything that happens goes against that faith.

God's Workmanship, 428 L

Wrong things happen actually because things are wrong really. One of the dangers of fanaticism is to accept disaster as God's appointment, as part of His design. It is not God's design, but His permissive will. There is a vital moral difference between God's order and His permissive will. God's order is—no sin, no Satan, no sickness, no limitations. Then comes the permissive will of God—sin, Satan, difficulty, wrong and evil, and when desolation and disaster strike a man there is a wicked sting at the heart of it, and if he does not allow for the real thing behind it all he is a fool. We have to grasp God's order through His permissive will.

Baffled to Fight Better, 48 R

The slander of men is against God when disasters occur. If you have never felt inclined to call God cruel and hard, it is a question whether you have ever faced any problems at all.

Conformed to His Image, 376 L

The greatest challenge to a Christian is to believe Matthew 28:18—"All power is given unto Me in heaven and in earth." How many of us get into a panic when we are faced by physical desolation, by death, or war, injustice, poverty, disease? All these in all their force will never turn to panic the one who believes in the absolute sovereignty of his Lord.

Disciples Indeed, 386 R

In a time of calamity God appears to pay scant courtesy to all our art and culture, He sweeps the whole thing aside till civilisation rages at Him. It is the babe and the fool who get through in the day of God's visitation.

Disciples Indeed, 389 R

There are disasters to be faced by the one who is in real fellowship with the Lord Jesus Christ. God has never promised to keep us immune from trouble; He says "I will be with him in trouble," which is a very different thing.

The Place of Help, 997 L

~*~

Romans 8:28-29 And we know that ALL THINGS work together for good to them that love GOD, to them who are the called according to His purpose, for whom He did foreknow, He also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.

Toward Freedom , on: 2011/4/27 11:59

THE EXPERIENCE OF A MIXED SOUL AND SPIRIT

We do not mean to imply that soulish believers experience nothing except what belongs to the soul; though saints of this type are plentiful. Soulsh ones do enjoy some spiritual experiences. Those however are rather mixed with the soulsh mingling with the spiritual. These believers are acquainted with the outline of a spiritual walk because the Holy Spirit has led them so to do. But due to many hindrances they frequently fall back upon natural energy to supply strength for their living, expecting to fulfill the holy requirements of God by their flesh. These follow their desires and ideas and seek sensual pleasure and mental wisdom. While they may be spiritual in knowledge, in point of fact they are soulsh. The Holy Spirit genuinely dwells in their spirit and has accorded them the experience of conquering sin through the operation of the cross. But He is not allowed to lead their lives. While some may be ignorant of the law of the Spirit many others may love the soul life just too much to give it up.

Now spirit and soul are easy to distinguish in experience. Spiritual life is maintained simply by heeding the direction of the spirit's intuition. If a believer walks according to God's Spirit he will not originate or regulate anything; he will instead wait quietly for the voice of the Holy Spirit to be heard in his spirit intuitively and assume for himself the position of a subordinate. Upon hearing the inner voice he rises up to work, obeying the direction of intuition. By so walking the believer remains a steadfast follower. The Holy Spirit alone is the Originator. Moreover he is not self-dependent. He does not employ his prowess in executing God's will. Whenever action is required the believer approaches God intently-fully conscious of his weakness-and petitions God to give him a promise. Having received God's promise he then acts, counting the power of the Holy Spirit as his. In an attitude such as this God will surely grant power according to His Word.

Precisely the opposite is the soulsh life. Self is the center here. When a Christian is said to be soulsh he is walking according to self. Everything originates from himself. He is governed not by the voice of the Holy Spirit in the inner man but rather by the thoughts, decisions and desires of his outer man. Even his feeling of joy arises from having his own wishes satisfied. It will be recalled that the body was said to be the shell of the soul, which in turn forms the sheath of the spirit. As the Holy Place is outside the Holy of Holies so the soul is outside the spirit. In such intimate proximity how easy it is for the spirit to be influenced by the soul. The soul has indeed been delivered from the tyranny of the body; it is controlled no longer by the lusts of the flesh; but a similar separation of the spirit from the control of the soul has not yet occurred in the soulsh Christian. Before the believer had overcome his fleshly lusts his soul had been joint-partner with his body. They together constituted one enormous life, the other nature. As it was with soul and body so is it now with his spirit and his soul. The spirit is merged with the soul. The former provides the power while the latter gives the idea, with the result that his spirit is too often affected by his soul.

Because it is surrounded by the soul (even buried therein), the spirit is stimulated easily by the mind. A born again person ought to possess unspeakable peace in the spirit. Unfortunately this tranquillity is disturbed by the stimulating lust from the soul with its numerous independent desires and thoughts. Sometimes the joy which floods the soul overflows into the spirit, inducing the believer to think he is the happiest person in the world; at other times sorrow pervades and he becomes the most unhappy person. A soulsh Christian frequently encounters such experiences. This is because the spirit and the soul remain undivided. They need to be split asunder.

When such believers bear some teaching on the division of spirit and soul, they would like very much to know where their spirit is. They may search diligently, but they are unable to sense the presence of their spirit. Without any real experience there, they naturally are at a loss how to distinguish their spirits from their souls. Since these two are so closely linked it is common for them to treat soulsh experiences (such as joy, vision, love, etc.) as superlative spiritual ones.

Before a saint arrives at the stage of spirituality he is sure to be dwelling in a mixed condition. Not content with a quietude in his spirit, he will seek a joyous feeling. In his daily living the believer sometimes will follow the leading of intuitive knowledge and sometimes his thought, sensation or wish. Such a mixture of spirit and soul reveals that two antithetical sources reside in the believer: one belongs to God, one belongs to man: one is of the Spirit, the other is of himself: one is intuitive, the other rational: one is supernatural, the other natural: one belongs to the spirit, the other belongs to the soul. If the child of God carefully examines himself beneath the beam of God's light, he will perceive the two kinds of power within him. He likewise will recognize that sometimes he lives by the one life and at other times by the other. On the one hand he knows he must walk in faith by trusting in the Holy Spirit; on the other hand, he reverts to walking according to himself on the basis of what he terms spiritual feelings. He lives far more in the soul than in the spirit. The degree of his soulshness varies according to (1) his understanding of the spirit life with its principle of cooperating with God and (2) his actual yielding to the soul life. He can live entirely in an emotional, idea ideational or activist world, or he can even live alter

nately by his soul and by his spirit. Unless he is instructed by God through the revelation of the Holy Spirit in his spirit, he shall be unable to abhor the soulish life and to love the spirit life. Whichever life he chooses determines the path he shall follow.

<https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/articles/index.php?view=article&aid=1943>

Re: For the Hurting ~, on: 2011/5/10 3:03

How to be Inexpressibly Happy ~ Torrey

I have here a beautiful text, a text that you all know, but I wonder how many of you have ever pondered it enough to take in all its wonderful wealth of meaning.

A young woman in England many years ago always wore a golden locket that she would not allow anyone to open or look into, and everyone thought there must be some romance connected with that locket and that in that locket must be the picture of the one she loved. The young woman died at an early age, and after her death the locket was opened, everyone wondering whose face he would find within. And in the locket was found simply a little slip of paper with these words written upon it, "Though I have not seen Him, I love." Her Lord Jesus was the only lover she knew and the only lover she longed for, and she had gone to be with Him, the one object of her whole heart's devotion, the unseen but beloved Savior.

But it is to the last part of the verse that I wish to call your particular attention tonight, "Even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy."

This text informs us (and many of us do not need to be informed of it, for we know it by blessed experience) that one who really believes on Jesus Christ, our unseen, but ever living Lord and Savior, rejoices with "inexpressible and glorious joy." The Greek word translated "joy" is a very strong word, describing extreme joy or jubilant joy. The word "inexpressible" declares that this jubilant joy is of such a character that we cannot, by any possibility, explain it adequately to others. Everyone who really believes on the Lord Jesus does rejoice with an jubilant joy that is beyond all description. And those who do truly believe on the Lord Jesus Christ are the only ones who rejoice this way. Others may have a certain amount of joy, a certain measure of gladness, but the only people who really know "inexpressible and glorious joy" are those who really believe on Jesus Christ.

Who is there among us who does not wish to be happy?

<https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/articles/index.php?view=article&aid=2000>

Re: - posted by ManofGod0000, on: 2011/5/10 10:40

brothers and sisters,

I still hurt and feel very blah everyday, but now i somewhat understand that God is pruning and moving me into complete reliance on him and no longer on my flesh.

Thats just what I can make out at this point

Re: , on: 2011/5/10 12:31

Happy to see you posting ManofGOD. I understand "blah" and was beginning to sense that "Joy" - that beautiful by-product of Knowing Him was being attacked by unhealthy doses of other's exaltation of something over Who He Is. I read yesterday's devotionals on here and began to smile again.

THE JOY OF THE LORD 'IS' OUR STRENGTH, so of course "an attack" would have that purpose of 'stealing' that Joy that He has poured into our hearts, that Torrey speaks about in that message here.

I read it and laughed in a number of places because Torrey was a jolly ol' soul but took everything seriously at the same time. That's the beauty of Torrey and the beauty of what our walks should be.

The more we get our eyes off those things around us and unto Him - the Author and finisher of our faith - there's Joy.
As Torrey said - just Knowing we're forgiven - there's Joy.

Great Joy!

Just looking up into the sky, knowing He's up there waiting for us - there's that expectant Joy.

I learned a bit through this of late. If it robs that Joy - I now know 'where' it's coming from.

When HE is Glorified - there's Joy - even in the midst of tribulation or persecution, whatever!

Pray with Thanksgiving, He said and that's so True.

Even when we go into burdens for others - praying with Thanksgiving keeps the depression away from carrying a burden.

I'm grateful for The LORD opening my eyes to see what the enemy was trying to do of late - to rob the Joy of our Salvation - because he knows that "The Joy of The LORD 'is' our strength" and when he can rob our Joy - he can control people much easier. We become sort of shell-shock without Joy and the shell-shocked can be "controlled" easier - that's how Cults work.

So, we are FREE INDEED and I'm rejoicing again today for the Joy of our Salvation and for WHO He is. And for Torrey's message - for The JOY of The LORD IS our Strength.

Oh Victory in Jesus ~ our Saviour Forever ~ He sought us and He bought us ~ with His Redeeming Blood ~ Amen! :)

If you find any good messages on JOY - please feel free to post them here. I'm just wanting to say that there is POWER in that JOY that is From Him and nothing should ever rob that from us in order to weaken us in Any way.

Bless GOD and GOD Bless you!

1Pe 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

1Pe 1:4 To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,

1Pe 1:5 Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

1Pe 1:6 Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations:

1Pe 1:7 That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:

1Pe 1:8 Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory:

1Pe 1:9 Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls.

Glory!!