

Learned Sympathy

W. M. Taylor

One night, wandering the streets of London in disguise, King Henry the Eighth was met at a bridge by some guards. Because of his not giving a good account of what he was doing out at night, the king was locked up in Poultry Compter, without any fire, candle, or food. On being released from his prison, he made a grant of thirty chaldrons of coals and a quanti-

ty of bread for the night prisoners in the Compter.



Experience brings sympathy as it did to the King. Those who have felt sharp afflictions, terrible convictions, racking doubts, and violent temptations, will be zealous in consoling those in a similar condition. Our experience of such difficult times can help us be a blessing and an encouragement to those that are now facing similar trials.

They Also Faced Hard Times

I	O	B	E	G	H	F	P	U	A	N	G	A	S	O	H	U	W	R	E
P	U	O	A	B	K	S	K	A	W	M	C	I	V	P	O	Z	A	J	U
A	P	C	A	L	E	B	S	U	S	E	J	P	F	U	Z	V	Z	A	N
F	M	S	G	L	A	P	L	H	C	F	A	H	S	I	L	E	G	C	P
R	B	O	U	L	Q	A	S	U	A	V	X	U	N	O	Y	V	I	O	Y
R	Q	L	S	R	I	Q	M	A	J	I	D	L	N	T	D	E	L	B	L
G	D	A	A	Y	A	W	U	F	M	L	R	W	O	T	Z	U	Y	X	G
Z	U	S	U	T	F	Z	G	U	B	U	A	U	A	K	U	E	A	F	E
E	A	W	Y	F	O	O	A	V	K	D	E	G	H	M	D	K	W	F	M
E	S	X	L	Z	H	H	J	L	G	D	I	L	U	Z	E	F	I	I	P
L	E	U	U	A	A	P	S	B	D	V	C	B	W	J	U	T	A	X	
R	M	C	K	R	D	F	Z	N	E	B	B	A	N	Z	Y	F	U	Z	O
L	A	B	A	T	W	U	E	O	L	L	R	P	A	C	B	L	P	G	V
M	J	S	C	K	R	H	N	J	A	N	P	R	H	O	C	H	D	C	I
B	R	S	A	S	P	U	E	B	A	Q	J	Z	T	V	T	P	A	X	N
Y	U	E	A	E	Q	V	R	B	Q	R	A	X	A	A	M	E	N	A	L
Q	O	F	T	B	H	A	A	V	Z	S	X	H	N	Z	L	S	I	N	S
B	E	S	A	V	H	S	G	M	A	D	A	A	V	N	U	O	E	W	M
T	G	W	D	A	V	T	T	M	Z	Q	I	P	T	K	A	J	L	Y	O
X	W	N	M	G	F	D	U	K	J	O	B	S	T	H	S	G	F	N	G

Words to Find:
 Abraham
 Adam
 Amos
 Balaam
 Barnabas
 Caleb
 Daniel
 Elisha
 Gideon
 Jacob
 James
 Jesus
 Job
 Joseph
 Lazarus
 Nathan
 Noah
 Paul
 Samuel
 Sarah
 Saul
 Stephen
 Uriah

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Why They Smell So Good

Bowden

“You smell delightfully fragrant,” said the gravel path to a bed of Chamomile flowers.



“We have been trodden on,” replied the Chamomiles.

“Does that cause you to smell so good?” asked the gravel path. “Treading on me produces no sweetness.”

“Our natures are different,” answered the Chamomiles.

“Gravel walkways only become harder by being trodden upon.”

The flowers went on to explain, “When we are pressed down by footsteps and bruised, when the dew is upon us we give forth the sweet smell which you are now smelling.”

Like the trodden upon flowers, a Christian’s trials and tribulations can also make him have a sweet smelling attitude. After the worst of difficult

times, he can be the strongest and shiniest example of God’s grace.

“Oh No, What’ll I Do?”

Bill Brinkworth

Sometimes, life can be plain rough; even for Christians. We may face financial hardships, physical problems, relationship challenges, and hosts of other types of trials. What do you do? Where do you run to? How do you escape the load of a burden you sometimes just cannot imagine yourselves bearing?

We are told in the Bible that, as heavy as one’s burdens feel, God will never allow one more than he can bear: *“There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.”* I Corinthians 10:13 Whatever we face, God will only allow us to go through what we can handle with His help.

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“Oh No, What’ll I Do?”

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God knows the immense trials so many are facing can be handled by them.

With the faith that God will help them, the next avenue of relief from trials and tribulations is prayer: *“Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.” Philippians 4:6* Be thankful for what you do have and ask God to help you, and trust by faith that He will help!

After knowing that God will somehow help us through our hard times and seeking His aid in the time of need, there is one more area that has to be handled; so we do not feel defeated and want to give up. That area is our thought life.

If we have any “strength or moral goodness” (virtues), allow your mind to have only the right thoughts: *“Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue,*

and if there be any praise, think on these things.” Philippians 4:8

Do not allow yourself to think about what could happen; things that are not true; things that are not right; things that are filthy and unrighteous; things that are scary and frightening, or bad news. Doing so will never help; it will always make matters worse. Christian, you have the mind of Christ. Do not fill it with worldly thoughts because the dark things of this world will only try to put out your “light.” Keep your eyes and mind on the things of God, and let God do the worrying! He’s going to be up all night anyway!

“Why Me?”

Bill Brinkworth

Every Christian, at one time or the other, contemplates why he is going through such trials and tribulations. Nowhere in the Word of God does it say that life will be easy once one is saved, although we do have much more godly protection. Actually, after salvation life may be harder, as one battles avoiding temptations and other spiritual challenges. That may be why so many

“quit” their attempts to live godly.

The end of Hebrews 11 lists many that lost their lives for their faith. The trials most of us face are nothing like they faced (Hebrew 12:4).

Even the perfect Son of God faced trials imposed by others with lesser spiritual standing than He (vs. 3). We should not be surprised when hard times do come our way.

However, some of our “hard times” may be self-induced. Often the problems experienced are the side effects of one’s own sin and wrong decisions. Other times our tribulations are the result of one’s Heavenly Father disciplining them for straying from the path He desired them to take.

Those that utter, “I can’t understand how a God of love could punish His own children!” certainly do not know the God of the Bible. If our earthly fathers discipline us (Heb. 12:7, 9), or at least they should at times, we should expect correction from our spiritual Father when we step out of line. Despite what socially-corrected people think, one that loves his children should discipline them when they are not doing right. God loves His own children and certainly will correct them when they do wrong. *“For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.”*

Heb. 12:6

Sometimes there are ones who say, “Well, God has never

disciplined me!” Well, I do not know them, but I do know, that even if they are saved, they still are not perfect (Romans 3:23). They may be forgiven, but they still sin. If they sin, and they are one of God’s children, He will deal with their sin. No one gets away with any sin!

There would be a serious situation if one claims he is saved, but still insists that God has never disciplined him when he has gotten involved in sin. It may be either his discipline is on its way, or he may not even be saved! A good, earthly father may discipline his own children, but he would not correct the neighbor’s children. Likewise, God only corrects His own.

“But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons.” Heb. 12:8

No one likes be corrected, and since NO ONE gets away with sin, there is a simple solution to avoid its consequences. Flee sin! Keep as far away from it as much as possible!

For those that say, “A lot of people get away with sin”, then I have a question for you. Why are the jails so full, divorces so high, people so unhappy, and hell at near capacity? Those situations usually are not because everyone sat around and practiced what they read in their Bible!”

“O soul, are you weary and troubled? No light in the darkness you see? There’s light for a look at the Saviour, And life more abundant and free!

Turn your eyes upon Jesus, Look full in His wonderful face; And the things of earth will grow strangely dim, In the light of His glory and grace.”

— “Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus”, by Helen Lemmel