

They also faced
Trials & Tribulations

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

Church Built With Thrown Stones

Author Unknown

There was a mission in Japan, which has a meeting place built by the stones which were thrown at the Christians in years gone by. A

mob rushed upon the company and stoned them. When the time of peace came, the Christians picked up the stones and worked them into their building. God is able to make the wrath of man praise Him.

“Even a misfortune may prove useful in three years.”

— Japanese Proverb

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The Valley
Gene Griffin



“Yea, though I walk through the valley”
Psalm 23:4

*Lord, I asked for mountains,
But You gave me the valley;
I asked for blessed fountains,
But You gave me seasons dry.*

*Lord, I asked for the level plain,
But You gave me the low place.
I asked for freedom from pain,
But You gave me grace to bear.*

*Lord, I asked for the cool breeze,
But the sweltering heat You gave.
In the valley You brought me to
my knees
That I might behold the Lily there.*

*Lord, I asked to understand,
But You taught me to trust:
That all that comes through Your
Hand
Is the best for me.*

*Lord, help me to rest in all Your
ways
Being confident that all is well.*

*As we receive grace all our days,
Even in the valley, the Lily is
there.*

The Ministry of Storms
Elim Evangel

We were going through a great furniture factory, when our guide, the superintendent, pointed out to us a superbly grained and figured sideboard of wood.

“I want you to observe the beauty of this oak,” he said. “It is the finest selected timber of its kind, and the secret of the intricate and beautiful graining is just this, that the trees from which it was taken grew in a spot where they were exposed to almost constant conflict with storms.”

What a suggestive fact. The storm-beaten tree develops the closest, finest, and most intricately woven fibers. When it is cut down and the saws lay bare its exquisitely figured grain, the cabinet-maker selects it as the material for his finest work.

So with the human life beset by sorrows, tests, and trials. If it stands the storm, how the wind of God strengthens and beautifies it.

“I Broke Its Leg!”

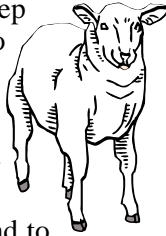
Adapted from an article by
James McConkey

A lady was summering in Switzerland. One day she started out for a stroll. As she climbed the mountainside, she came to a shepherd's fold. She walked to the door and looked in. There sat the shepherd. Around him lay his flock. Near at hand, on a pile of straw, lay a single sheep.

It seemed to be suffering. Scanning it closely, the lady saw that its leg was broken. At once, her sympathy went out to the suffering sheep. She looked up inquiringly to the shepherd. “How did it happen?” she asked.

To her amazement, the shepherd answered, “Madam, I broke that sheep's leg.” A look of pain swept over the visitor's face. Seeing it, the shepherd explained, “Madam, of all the sheep in my flock, this one was the most wayward. It never would follow in the pathway in which I was leading the flock. It wandered to the verge of many a perilous cliff. Not only was it disobedient itself, but it was ever leading the other sheep of my flock astray. I had before had experience with sheep of this kind, so I broke its leg. The first day I went to it with food, it tried to bite me. I let it lie alone for a couple of days. Then, I went back to it. Now, it not only took

the food, but it licked my hand, and showed every sign of submission and even affection. Now, let me tell you something. When this sheep is well, it will be the model sheep of my flock. No sheep will hear my voice so quickly. None will follow so closely at my side.”



As this sheep had to have its leg broken, to change its self-destructive life style, so does the Lord often have to allow hardships in our life. The hard-times often change our wrong direction, make us more loving to the Lord, and make us more willing to obey Him.

Waves That Drive Us Toward God

Walter Knight

A little boy made a boat. He went off in high glee to sail it on the water. Soon it got beyond his reach. In his distress, he appealed to a big boy for help; asking him to get it back for him.

Saying nothing, the bigger boy picked up stones, and seemingly threw them at the boat. The little boy thought he would never get his boat back, and that instead of helping him, the other boy was annoying him. Soon he noticed that instead of hitting the boat, each stone went beyond it,

and made a little wave, which moved the boat a little nearer to the shore. Every throw of the stones was planned, and soon the little boat was brought within reach. How happy the little boy was. Again, he was in possession of his treasure.



Sometimes, things in our life seem disagreeable and without sense or plan. Let us wait awhile, and we shall see that each trial, each striking of a stone upon the quiet water of our life, has brought us nearer to God.

“I Will Not Leave Thee.”

Spurgeon

God is with us in sorrows. There is no pang that rends the heart, I might almost say, not one which disturbs the body, but what Jesus Christ has been with you in it all.

Feel you the sorrows of poverty? He “...hath not where to lay his head.”

Do you endure the griefs of bereavement? Jesus wept at the tomb of Lazarus.

Have you been betrayed? Do not forget that Jesus, too, had His familiar friend sell him out for the price of a slave.

On what stormy seas have you been tossed which have not roared about His boat? Never glen of adversity so dark, so deep, apparently so pathless, but what, in stooping down, you may

discover the footprints of the crucified One! In the fires and in the rivers, in the cold of night, and under the burning sun, Jesus cries, “... and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.”

Scars

Pastor J. B. Hall, *Ray of Hope*

“The Lord killeth, and maketh alive: he bringeth down to the grave, and bringeth up.” “The Lord maketh poor, and maketh rich: he bringeth low, and lifteth up.” *I Samuel 2:6-7*

Scars, while not usually considered a beauty mark, provide a demarcation line between the past and the present. They tell of a wounding that has occurred; but also remind us that a healing has taken place. It is often in the horror of wounding that true healing comes to our lives. Scars, then, serve as a beacon, pointing us back to the transforming wound we received; reminding us of the touch of God that brought that horrible wound; but only so that He might lift us higher than we ever could have risen without it.

“He who knows no hardships will know no hardihood. He who faces no calamity will need no courage. Mysterious though it is, the characteristics in human nature which we love best grow in a soil with a strong mixture of trouble.” — Harry Fosdick

“A fool shakes his fist and blames God during adversity. A wise man draws closer toward Him during those times.”