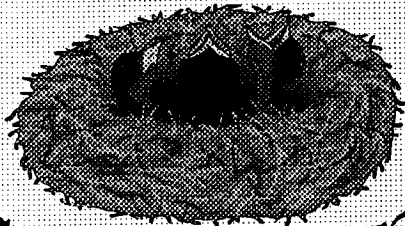
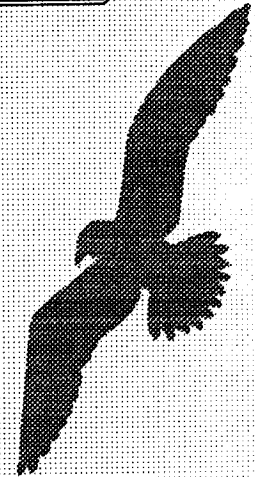


*"They shall
mount up...*

ON EAGLES' WINGS

*... with wings
as eagles."
Isaiah 40:31*



AERY NUGGETS

"Take, my brethren, the prophets, who have spoken in the name of the Lord, for an example of suffering affliction, and of patience. Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy." James 5:10,11.

Afflictions, Blessings in Disguise

I cannot say that I am glad when storm clouds come,
When days and nights are burdensome and long.
I like the peacefulness of sunny days
When life is bright and in my heart's a song

And yet ... I know the wisdom I have learned
Or any courage that my life displays
Was never gained in golden sunlit hours
But rather grew from dark and stormy days.

I've felt God's presence closer 'mid the storm
As I relied on Him to guide my way
And through my trials found a stronger faith
Enabling me to better face each day.

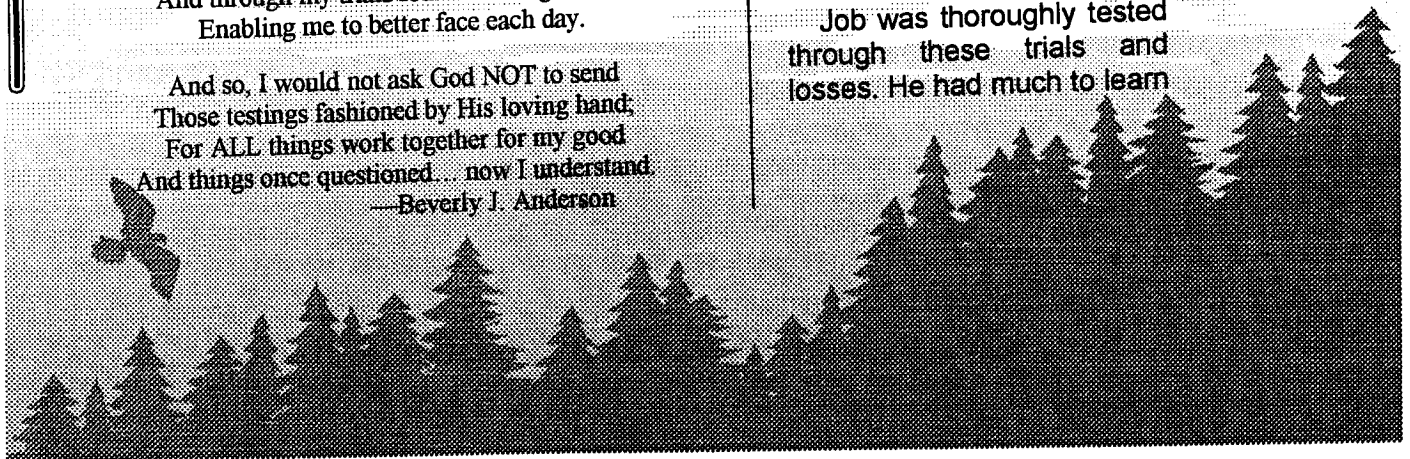
And so, I would not ask God NOT to send
Those testings fashioned by His loving hand;
For ALL things work together for my good
And things once questioned... now I understand
—Beverly J. Anderson

Dear Friends,

How thankful we should be for the lessons that we learn from the book of Job. Here was a man who truly feared God and abstained from all that was evil. Job chapter 1 The Lord had richly blessed Job with children and many possessions so that he had become the greatest of all the men of the east. Satan accused God of placing a hedge about Job and protecting him from all evil. Take away the protection, Satan said and Job would curse God. So God allowed Satan to bring all kinds of loss and trouble into Job's life. See Job chapter 1.

As a result Job lost his children and all his possessions. Did Job curse God? No. Instead Job said: "The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the Name of the Lord." God then allowed Satan to cover dear Job's body with boils. It was then that his wife encouraged him to curse God and die. But Job answered "What? Shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil?" Chapter 2:10.

Job was thoroughly tested through these trials and losses. He had much to learn



as we also do when we are tested and tried. He was comforted by the realization that he had a living Redeemer who one day he would see face to face. He said: "For I know that my Redeemer ever lives, and in the latter day on earth shall stand; and after worms this body have consumed, yet in my flesh I shall see God, whom I, even I shall see upon my side, mine eyes shall see Him – stranger now no more; for this my inmost soul with longing waits." Job 19: 25-27. (Companion Bible.) How good when we go through trials to "stand upon the promises of God!" Think of it, dear reader! "Now we see through a glass darkly, but then face to face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know as also I am known." 1 Corinthians 13:12.

As we encounter trials and suffering we may often feel that no one understands what we are going through. I believe that Job felt that also. Even his own wife told him to curse God and die. Job 3:10. But Job found real comfort in the realization that God knew all about it. Job wrote: "But He knows the way that I take: when He hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold." Job 23:10. Yes, "He knows, He Loves, He cares! Nothing this truth can dim. He gives the very best to those who leave the choice with Him."

Job also said, "Though He slay me, yet I will trust in Him." Job 13:15. (This is the verse my mother repeated to me when she was going through a time of physical weakness and no longer could take care of herself.) Another thing that was a great comfort to Job was his love for God's word. He wrote: "My foot hath held His steps, His way have I kept, and not declined. Neither have I gone back from the commandment of his lips. "I have esteemed the words of His mouth more than my necessary food." Job 23:11,12.

In the last few chapters dear Job had much to learn about God's ways and His dealings with men. First Elihu and then the Lord Himself speak to Job reminding him of his unjust statements. This wonderful book ends with Job saying: "I have heard of Thee by the hearing of the ear: but now mine eye seeth Thee. Wherefore I abhor myself and repent in dust and ashes." Job 42:5.

As we would meditate upon God's dealings with Job and the faith that he expresses while going through these trials we should be encouraged to:

"Trust Him when dark doubts assail thee.
Trust Him when thy strength is small.
Trust Him when to simply trust Him
Seems the hardest thing of all."

Someone once wrote: "God uses chronic pain and weakness, along with other afflictions, as His chisel for sculpting our lives. **Felt weakness deepens dependence on Christ for strength each day.** The weaker we feel, the harder we lean. And the harder we lean, the stronger we grow spiritually, even while our bodies waste away. To live with your 'thorn' uncomplainingly – that is, sweet, patient, and free in heart to love and help others, even though every day you feel weak – is true sanctification. It is true healing for the spirit. It is a supreme victory of grace. The healing of your sinful person thus goes forward, even though the healing of your mortal body does not."

"We cannot always trace the way
Where Thou, our gracious Lord, dost move;
But we can always surely say,
That God is love.

When fear its gloomy cloud will fling
O'er earth –our souls, to heaven above,
As to their sanctuary, spring,
For God is love.

When clouds hang o'er our darken'd path,
We'll check our dread, each doubt reprove;
For here each saint sweet comfort hath,
That God is love.

**Yes, Thou art love – a truth like this
Can every gloomy thought remove,
And turn our tears and woes to bliss;
Our God is love."**

—Sir J. Bowering

In His wonderful love,

John D. McNeil

The saints, vessels of His delivering power may be, "exposed not to an occasional assault of the enemy, but kept up by God in the face of constant pressure and excessive trial and extreme weakness, yet with blessing flowing out on every side"; the flesh kept as dead, "in order that the life also of Jesus may be manifested in our body." (See 2 Corinthians 10)
William Kelly

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