





"My times are in Thy hand; Father, I wish them there: My life, my soul, my all, I leave entirely to care."

"My times are in Thy hand, Whatever they may be. Pleasing or painful, dark or bright, As best may seem to Thee".

"My times are in Thy hand: Why should I doubt or fear? Mv Father's hand will never cause His child a needless tear."

"My times are in Thy Hand, Jesus the Crucified! The hand my many sins once pierced Is now my Guard and Guide." -W. F. Lloyd

"And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death. neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away."

Revelation 21:4.

as eagles." Isaiah 40:31



Dear Friends.

The last few weeks I have been thinking about the subject of tears. I'm sure that all of us can relate to times when we have cried. It may have been the loss of a wife or husband or a child or a very good friend or a serious health problem. Or we can be discouraged about our job or other disappointments that can lead us at times to secretly cry to the Lord.

I have been there and it has been a real encouragement to me to realize that my times are in His hand and that He uses these disappointments to make us lean on His everlasting arms of love and strength.

I would like to notice some verses in the Bible where tears and weeping are mentioned and see that God's ear is open to hear our cries and to strengthen and encourage us. King David at one point in his life wrote these words:

weary with my groaning; all the night make I my bed to swim: I water my couch with my tears." Psalm 6:6. Did the Lord hear his weeping? In verse 8 of this Psalm we read these words: "Depart from me,



ye workers of iniquity; for the Lord hath heard the voice of my weeping. The Lord hath heard my supplication; the Lord will receive my prayer." Yes, Our Lord hears what we say, "He Knows, He loves, He cares. Nothing this truth can dim. He gives the very best to those who leave the choice with Him."

Did you know that God puts our tears into a bottle? In Psalm 56:8 David writes: "Thou tellest my wanderings: Put Thou my tears into Thy bottle; are they not in Thy book?" No doubt when we are with Him in heaven we will be able to trace how God used all these tears to draw us closer to Himself. In verse 11 of that same Psalm David writes "In God have I put my trust: I will not be afraid what man can do unto me." How good to know that we never need to be afraid. What a Saviour!

At another time David prays: "Hear my prayer, O Lord, and give ear unto my cry; hold not Thy peace at my tears: for I am a stranger with Thee, and a sojourner, as all my fathers were. I waited patiently for the Lord; and He inclined unto me, heard my cry. He brought me up also out of a horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock and established my goings." What was the result of that deliverance? "And He hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God." Psalm 40:1-3. At another time David writes: "For Thou hast delivered my soul from death, mine eyes from tears, and my feet from falling." Psalm 116:8.

We may not think of **tears** in connection with presenting the good news of the gospel but these next verses show how important our **tears** are for that work. "They that **sow in tears** shall reap in joy. He that goeth forth bearing precious seed shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him." Psalm 126: 5,6.

King Hezekiah was told by Isaiah that he was to set his house in order as he was going to die. He cried out to the Lord and the Lord said to him: "I have heard thy prayer, I have seen thy tears: behold I will add unto thy days fifteen years." Isaiah 38:1-5. Sad to say Hezekiah did not use those extra years to honor the Lord. Read Isaiah 39. One has said of that failure and I quote: "Both history and experience combine to tell us that a special blessing is often the very hour of greatest danger." ACG.

Turning to the New Testament we find a woman coming into a Pharisee's house where the Lord Jesus was sitting down to eat. She had

brought a alabaster box of ointment, and she stood at Jesus' feet behind Him weeping, and began to wash His feet with her **tears**, and did wipe them with the hairs of her head, and kissed His feet, and anointed them with the ointment. As one has pointed out her love for Him was a result of the forgiveness of sins which she had received. Luke 7:38-60.

The last we hear of **tears** is found in the book of Revelation 21:4. There we read these wonderful words: "And God shall wipe away all **tears** from their eyes: and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall be any more pain: for the former things are passed away". "What a day of rejoicing that will be!"

In His wonderful love

John D. McNeil

How Firm a Foundation.

How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord, Is laid for your faith in His excellent Word! What more can He say than to you He hath said, To you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

"Fear not; I am with thee; O be not dismayed!
For I am thy God, I will still give you aid:
I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause you to stand,
Upheld by My gracious, omnipotent hand."

"When through the deep waters I call thee to go,
The rivers of sorrow shall not overflow,
For I will be with thee thy trials to bless,
And sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.

The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose,
I will not, I will not desert to his foes;
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I'll never, no never, no never forsake.
—George Keith.

"In the night His song shall be with me." Psalm 42:8.

And oh! How deep the peace when, nature gone, Thy Spirit fills the soul, strengthened with might, With love divine; and God as love is known!

Lord! Keep my soul, and guide my steps aright.

Praise be for ever His who giveth songs in the night.

JND.

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