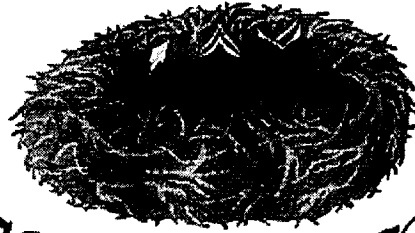


They shall mount up...

ON EAGLES' WINGS



AERY NUGGETS

...with wings of eagles.

Isaiah

40:31purpose

December 2010

The Trial of Faith

We are to distinguish between the trial of Faith and that of chastisement: in the former case we readily bow, and bring forth fruits of grace; but if we be rebellious, we are under correction. Paul's thorn in the flesh was God's gift to preserve him from pride, although it was the messenger of Satan that buffeted him. Thus God uses the Wicked One for our profit, for the glory of His all-sufficient grace, and for the Tempter's confusion.

Our trials are needful now for the exercise and growth of faith, and no less needful for our joy and glory at the appearing of our Lord.

Temptation to sin is painful to us only as we are sanctified by the Spirit in grace and walk with God. We ought not to wish for deliverance from trial until the trial has done its office. Shall the gold be taken out of the furnace before the dross has been consumed?

Faith's expectation in the day of trouble is large showers of blessing. Our faith is greatly strengthened when we are brought to see that no arm but God's can help; no wisdom but His can guide; and no love but His can satisfy. The thickest cloud brings the heaviest shower of blessings.



Christ often wounds in order to heal; and if He gives pain it is that we may find peace and rest in Himself. His wounds are full of kindness, and always tend to life, peace and rest in Himself. We often make this mistake – we expect in the kingdom of patience what is only promised in the kingdom of glory; and we ask God rather for deliverance from the warfare than grace for it as long as He is pleased that it shall last. Our impatience for victory often increases the heat of the battle.

God has settled in heaven certain trials of our faith, which will as surely be given us at Christ's appearing. God's purposes of grace are a golden chain; not a link must be missing. When a trial comes upon us, let us look upon it as sent for a peculiar blessing. If we receive it thus, we shall not consider "how heavy it is!" nor ask "when shall it be removed?" but "how much advantage shall I gain through it?" And "how shall I turn it to the best account?"

Often when saints, by right steps, bring afflictions upon themselves, they are tempted to think their course wrong; but faith seizes the opportunity of glorifying God. Thus the apparent loss becomes great gain. (Consider Esther 4:13-16) How much will our trials weigh when this mortal shall have put on immortality, and we shall appear with Christ in glory? 2 Corinthians 4:17-18.

The troubles of the way do us good service, if they raise the eyes of our mind to look at things unseen and eternal. Present faith, not past experience or comfort, keeps us from fainting in the hour of trial. Which of us



can be kept near to Christ without some thorn in the flesh? Faith, patience and prayer, can overcome all difficulties.

Afflictions coming upon God's people are not proof that they are displeasing to Him. Is God with us or not? Jeremiah was cast into the dungeon, and sank in the mire; but God was with him. (Jeremiah 38) And so it was also with Joseph. (Genesis 39:21). God's word is full of many more accounts.

Is the child of God overwhelmed by the trials of the way and ready to turn his back in the day of battle, because the rage of hellish powers? Remember that Samson first slew the lion and afterwards, out of the same lion got honey and that to spare.

When God gave Paul the thorn in the flesh, he knew not at first the value of this gift, and would have cast it away, had he been left in his own hands. The Lord was his keeper, and taught him and us through him, that the strength of Christ is made perfect in weakness.
Anon

Dear Brothers and Sisters, What shall we say then?

We must remember in whose world we live. For we are a heavenly people and are but pilgrims here. This inherently places us in a position of conflict. And the more we take possession of our blessings in Christ the more likely we are to be the target of the Prince of this world.

"For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." Eph 6:12

Also, we must remember what faith is to the believer. The world judges and accepts things by its perception of circumstances, but this is not for the believer. "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for the evidence of things not seen." Heb. 11:1



And finally, we must remember that the purposefulness of our trials is not for ourselves alone. But as we grow in Christ and see ourselves in Him, we can identify with what we read in II Cor. 1, "Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God".

Bob Niebling

"Be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might"

"Saviour! I Follow On"

Saviour! I follow on, Guid-ed by Thee,
Seeing not yet the hand
That leadeth me;
Hush'd be my heart and still, Fear I no future ill;
Only to meet Thy will My will shall be

Riven the rock for me, Thirst to relieve,
Manna from heaven falls; Fresh every eve;
Never a pang severe Causeth my eye a tear,
But Thou dost whisper near,
"Only believe"

Often to Marah's brink Have I been brought;
Shrinking the cup to drink, Help I have sought;
And with the prayer's ascent,
Jesus the branch hath rent---
Quickly relief hath sent, Sweet'ning the draught

Saviour! I long to walk Closer with Thee;
Led by Thy guiding hand, Ever to be;
Constantly near Thy side,
Constantly purified,
Living for Him who died Freely for me!
(Grace and Truth 143)

OEW welcomes the submission of articles to be considered for publication. If so led, please forward to Bob Niebling at

For address correction or free new name addition, write to:

Dale Winters or Christine Albury