

Words of Comfort

Christians are people just like anyone else and, we have our good days and our bad days; days when everything goes just as we planned and, days when nothing seems to go right. Even though we have repented of sin and have trusted Jesus Christ as our personal Saviour, nowhere in His Word, the Bible, has God promised us what we call a bed of roses. Sometimes we look at others, those who we call “lost {unsaved} folks” who seem to be living a perfect life and we ask ourselves, “Why do they have it so good while I have to go through this?” In answer to this, here are a few illustrations and Bible verses offered as encouragement and comfort.

In the Old Testament {OT} Job was a man with a serious affliction of his entire body. In so much pain he said, “For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God: Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another; though my reins be consumed within me.” {Job 19:25-27} Later on he said, “But he knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold.” {Job 23:10} In spite of his great pain and affliction, Job trusted in God because he believed in Him and knew that no matter what the outcome, he would see Him face to face in Heaven.

Sometimes we do something that is wrong, and, because of that, the Lord needs to correct us. As children, our parents would spank us, not because they hated us but because they loved us and wanted us to do right. Our heavenly Father is the same way. “My son, despise not the chastening of the LORD; neither be weary of his correction: For whom the LORD loveth he correcteth; even as a father the son in whom he delighteth.” {Proverbs 3:11-12}

Doing what is right is not always popular and we may be treated poorly. The Apostle Paul understood this quite well. On one occasion, “And when they had laid many stripes upon them, they cast them into prison, charging the jailor to keep them safely: Who, having received such a charge, thrust them into the inner prison, and made their feet fast in the stocks. And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God:” {Acts 16:23-25 a} This was only possible because they had done what was right in the eyes of God.

The Apostle Paul had a problem {we think it may have been physical} and he prayed three times for God to remove it, but He did not. What did God do? “For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.” {2 Corinthians 12:8-9} So many times we have seen the grace of God in the lives of others who may be suffering so much. God’s grace cannot be exhausted; it is as infinite as He is!

In life it does not matter how high the mountain may be or how low the valley; how long the road, or how dark the night because, as Christians, our heavenly Father has promised, “...he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.” {Hebrews 13:5 b} During our earthly journey we have God’s Holy Spirit, **THE** Comforter to guide and help us for Jesus said, “And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;” {John 14:16} We are **NEVER** alone!

No matter what our need be, whether it be great or small, there is an open door with access to the very Throne of God via the person of Jesus Christ. “Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. **Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.** [emphasis added]” {Hebrews 4:14-16} This alone should be enough to put all Christians on shouting ground!!

As our earthly pilgrimage comes to an end, we have a great reminder and promise from God, “Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord: We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.” {2 Corinthians 5:7-8}

My Christian friend may your heart be encouraged today by these verses from God’s Word. “Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.” {Hebrews 12:2}

~Richard A. Ciarrocca/July 2019

All Scripture references are KJV