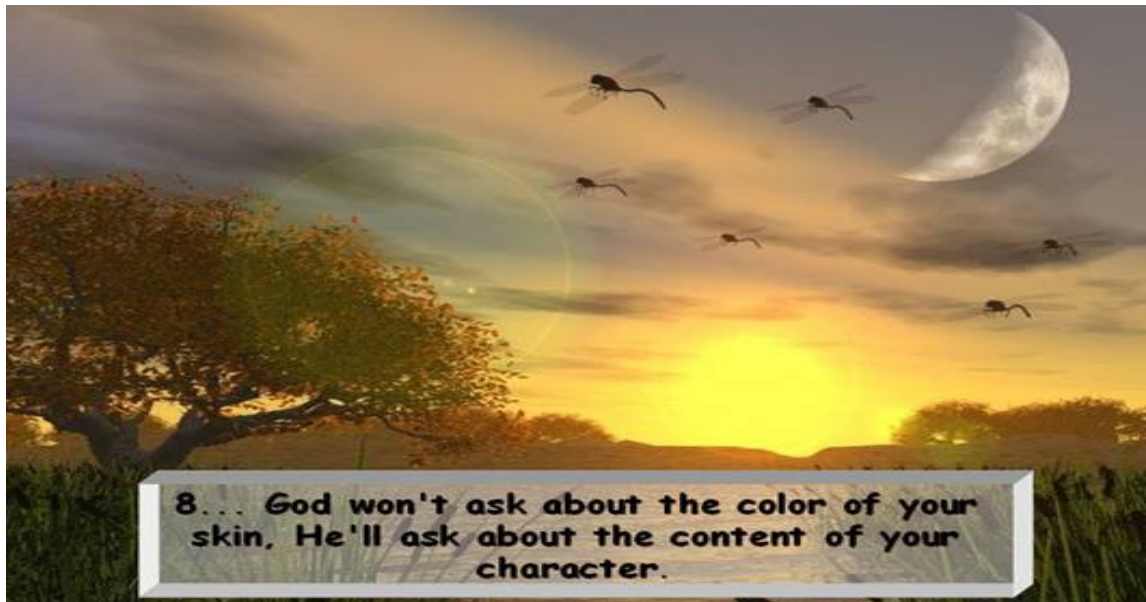


The Role of Trials in the School of Christ



Graham F. Watts, Sr. & Curtis Johnson

VISION: To hear the midnight cry, "The bridegroom comes, go out to meet Him" (Matthew 25:6) and become like Him when I see Him as He is (1 John 3:2).

MISSION: Purify myself even as Christ is pure (1 John 3:3) to be glad, to rejoice, give honor to Christ and be ready for the marriage of the Lamb (Revelation 19:7).

VALUES: Follow the Lamb wherever He goes (Revelation 14:4), be without fault before God (Revelation 14:5), be perfect even as my Father in heaven is perfect (Matthew 5:48), wear the Lamb's fine, clean and white linen (Revelation 19:8) do righteously (1 John 3:10) and walk humbly with God (Micah 6:8).

OVERALL AIM: Studies presented here unveil Bible knowledge to inquiring minds to prompt the following inquiries: "Are our feet on the rock of ages? Are we one with Christ as He is one with the Father" (John 10:30 in Evangelism, {Ev} 199.1)? Am I crucified with Christ (Galatians 2:20)?

26 **PURPOSE/REASON FOR/WHY**

27
28 The purpose of this study is to help God's people develop adversity
29 coping skills.
30

31 **OBJECTIVE/WHAT WE WANT TO ACCOMPLISH**

32
33 This study instructs participants how to follow Jesus Christ through
34 trials.
35

36 **SIGNIFICANCE: SO WHAT**

37
38 Daniel predicts a future, unprecedented time of trouble (read Daniel
39 12:1). The Revelator assures us that help is available in that time
40 and hour of trial (Revelation 3:10). Nevertheless, a preparation is
41 required to stand in that future time. Despite a priori warning, God's
42 people are "...not prepared for what is coming upon the earth. ...**A**
43 **great work must be done for the remnant; many of [whom] are dwelling**
44 **upon little trials**" (Early Writings, {EW} 119.1). In preparation for
45 the time spoken of by Daniel, "**CHRIST'S TRUE DISCIPLES follow Him**
46 **through sore conflicts, enduring self-denial and experiencing bitter**
47 **disappointment, [which] teaches them the guilt and woe of sin, and they**
48 **are led to look upon [sin] with abhorrence**" (The Acts of the Apostles,
49 {AA} 590.2).
50

51 Sore conflicts, self-denial and bitter disappointments aptly describe
52 the group "...that came out of great tribulation [for by this method
53 they] washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb"
54 (Revelation 7:14). God sent Judah into Chaldean (i.e., Babylonian)
55 captivity for their good (Jeremiah 24:5): to "...build them and not
56 pull them down...", (Jeremiah 24:6), to "...give them a heart to know
57 [God]... and [to] return unto [Him]" (Jeremiah 24:7). In like manner,
58 He uses chastening for our good. Hence, we are encouraged: "...despise
59 not the chastening of the Lord or faint when you are rebuked of Him"
60 (Hebrews 12:5).

61
 62 God will prepare the people who will stand in the day of the Lord. Old
 63 Testament prophets describe the day of the Lord as a day of gloominess,
 64 clouds, thick darkness (Joel 2:1-2; 3:14-15, Ezekiel 30:3; Amos 5:18),
 65 destruction (Isaiah 13:6; Joel 1:15), vengeance (Jeremiah 46:10),
 66 wrath, trouble and distress (Zephaniah 1:14-15). "The Almighty has a
 67 day in store..." (Isaiah 2:12) when "men will flee to caves in the
 68 rocks and to holes in the ground [to escape] the dread of the Lord and
 69 the splendor of His majesty when He rises to shake the earth" (Isaiah
 70 2:19 & 21). That day is near for all nations (Obadiah 1:15; Revelation
 71 22:12), but **before the day of the Almighty comes, God must prepare a**
 72 **remnant to endure the storm that approaches, "relentless in its fury"**
 73 (Evangelism, {Ev} 199.1) **so when the storm has passed, they can say,**
 74 **"...This is our God, we have waited for Him, He will save us..."**
 75 (Isaiah 25:9).

76
 77
 78

BACKGROUND CONTEXT

79
 80 [Exiles returned from Babylon, set themselves to rebuilt Jerusalem, its
 81 temple, and restore Jewish presence in Palestine. Coupled with
 82 motivational] "...messages delivered by Haggai and Zechariah, the
 83 people put forth every possible effort for rebuilding the temple; but,
 84 as they worked, they were sadly harassed by pseudo friends who devised
 85 many hindrances" (Nehemiah 2:10 & 19; 4:1-3 & 7-8; 6:1-13 in Prophets
 86 and Kings, {PK} 579.1). How can this be? Why does evil assail good?
 87 [Judah was engaged in a noble work, yet difficulties plagued their
 88 effort]! "Untiring in their opposition, the Samaritans weakened the
 89 hands of the people of Judah and troubled them in building and hired
 90 counselors against them, **to frustrate their purpose, all the days of**
 91 **Cyrus king of Persia, even until the reign of Darius"** (Ezra 4:1-24;
 92 5:1-17; 6:1-14). By false reports, they aroused suspicion in minds
 93 easily led to suspect (PK 571.1). Solomon was right when he said that
 94 on earth, wickedness replaces judgment and iniquity replaces

95 righteousness (Ecclesiastes 3:16). This history provided the impetus
96 for the study question of this lesson.

97
98 **STUDY QUESTION**

99
100 What should be the Christian's attitude in trials, difficulties and
101 oppositions?

102
103 **ANSWER SOURCE: HOLY BIBLE**

- 104
105 1. Jesus Christ, by incarnation, came in the likeness of man of
106 Genesis 5:2 (Philippians 2:5 & 7) to become sin for us by bearing
107 our transgressions (2 Corinthians 5:18 & 21 & Isaiah 53:5).
108
- 109 2. As a man, Christ learned obedience through suffering and became
110 perfect (Hebrews 5:5, 8 & 9).
111
- 112 3. "...Since Christ suffered in his body, arm yourselves with the
113 same attitude. He who has suffered in his body is done with sin"
114 (1 Peter 4:1, NIV); accomplishing Romans 6:14—"sin shall not have
115 dominion over you...;" therefore, "...he does not live the rest of
116 his earthly life for evil human desires, but ...for the will of
117 God" (1 Peter 4:2).
118
- 119 4. "God is faithful... [who] called [you] unto the fellowship of His
120 Son, Jesus Christ... (1 Corinthians 1:9) SO "THAT [WE] MAY **know**
121 **Him** and the **power of His resurrection** and **the fellowship of His**
122 **sufferings, being made conformable unto His death**" (Philippians
123 3:10).
124
- 125 5. "As a man disciplines his son, so the Lord your God disciplines
126 you" (Deuteronomy 8:5 NLT).
127
- 128 6. "Blessed is the man (of Genesis 5:1) whom God corrects; so do not
129 despise the discipline of the Almighty" (Job 5:17, NLT). "The

- 130 Lord chastens (i.e., makes less self-satisfied or self-assertive)
 131 whom He loves" (Hebrews 12:5-6; Proverbs 3:11-12). "As many as I
 132 love I rebuke and chasten; be zealous therefore and repent"
 133 (Revelation 3:19).
- 134
- 135 7. "Think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try
 136 you, as though some strange thing happens unto you" (1 Peter
 137 4:12), "**rejoice**, inasmuch as you are partakers of Christ's
 138 sufferings that, when His glory shall be revealed, you may be glad
 139 also with exceeding joy" (1 Peter 4:13).
- 140
- 141 8. "If you suffer for righteousness' sake, happy [are you]. Be not
 142 afraid of their terror, neither be troubled..., for Christ also...
 143 suffered for sins, the just for the unjust that He might bring us
 144 to God..." (1 Peter 3:14 & 18).
- 145
- 146 9. "**When [you] do well and suffer for it ...take it patiently, THIS**
 147 **IS ACCEPTABLE WITH GOD"** (1 Peter 2:20). "**THIS IS GOD'S PURPOSE**
 148 **FOR YOU. ...Jesus... underwent punishment for you, giving you an**
 149 **example that you might go in his footsteps"** (1 Peter 2:21 Basic
 150 English Bible). "**To sharp words He gave no sharp answer; when He**
 151 **was undergoing pain, no angry word came from His lips; but He put**
 152 **Himself into the hands of the judge of righteousness"** (1 Peter
 153 2:23 Basic English Bible).
- 154
- 155 10. "...Glory (i.e., praise) in tribulations, knowing that
 156 tribulations [workout] patience; patience experience; and
 157 experience hope; and hope [does not disappoint] because the love
 158 of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost, which is
 159 given unto us" (Romans 5:3-5). Rejoice in God in the day of
 160 prosperity and in the day of adversity because God has made them
 161 both (Ecclesiastes 7:14, NIV & KJV). "If any man suffers as a

- 162 Christian ...let him glorify (i.e., praise) God..." (1 Peter 4:16).
163 "In the name of our God we will set up our banners" (Psalms 20:5).
164
- 165 11. Babylonian administrators and satraps examined Daniel's conduct
166 of government affairs to find grounds for charges against him, but
167 found nothing (Daniel 6:4); therefore, they took issue with
168 Daniel's adherence to the law of God (Daniel 6:5) and convinced
169 Darius to publish an edict prohibiting prayers to any god or man,
170 except Darius, during a designated 30-days (Dan 6:6-9). "...When
171 Daniel learned that the decree had been published, he went home to
172 his upstairs room where the windows opened toward Jerusalem.
173 Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, giving
174 thanks to his God, just as he had done before" (Dan 6:10).
175
- 176 12. To the church at Thessalonica, Paul, Silvanus and Timotheus
177 [said], "...**All your persecutions and tribulations that you endure**
178 **is a token (i.e., a symbol) of the righteous judgment of God that**
179 **you... [are] ...worthy of the kingdom** of God for which you suffer"
180 (2 Thessalonians 1:1-5).
181
- 182 13. "Joseph said to his brethren, ...be not grieved or angry with
183 yourselves that you sold me..., God [sent] me before you to
184 preserve life" (Genesis 45:4-5). "...God is faithful who will not
185 suffer you to be tempted above that you are able, but will with
186 the temptation also make a way to escape that you may be able to
187 bear it" (1 Corinthians 10:13). "...The Lord thy God... is... the
188 faithful God, who keeps covenant and mercy with them that love him
189 and keep his commandments to a 1,000 generations" (Deuteronomy
190 7:9). "The sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be
191 compared with the glory, which shall be revealed in us" (Romans
192 8:18). "...ALL things work together for good to them that love
193 God, to them... called according to His purpose" (Romans 8:28).
194 "...[Not one]... of them that trust in Him shall be desolate"

195 (Psalms 34:22). "[God's] strength is made perfect in [our]
196 weakness" (2 Corinthians 12:9); therefore, we are to "...take hold
197 of [God's] strength" (Isaiah 27:5) in our suffering, because "many
198 are the afflictions of the righteous: but the Lord delivers..."
199 (Psalms 34:19). "After [we] have suffered a while, [God will] make
200 [us] perfect, establish, strengthen and settle [us]" (1 Peter
201 5:10).

202
203 14. "[God will] keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on
204 [God]..." (Isaiah 26:3). "...God... strengthens... [and] upholds
205 with the right hand of [His] righteousness" (Isaiah 41:10). "Let
206 them that suffer according to the will of God commit the keeping
207 of their souls to Him..." (1 Peter 4:19). "The eyes of the Lord
208 are on the righteous; His ears are open to their cry" (Psalms
209 34:15). "Cast not away... your confidence, which [has] great
210 recompense of reward" (Hebrews 10:35). "The Lord is good, a
211 refuge in times of trouble; He cares for those who trust in Him"
212 (Nahum 1:7). "...God knows how to rescue godly men [of Genesis
213 5:1] from trials..." (2 Peter 2:9, NIV). "The Lord... [loves us]
214 with an everlasting love" (Isaiah 61:3); He "will instruct [us]
215 and teach [us] in the way [that we shall] go..." (Psalms 32:8).
216 In all our afflictions, He is afflicted (Isaiah 63:9).

217
218 **SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS:** Many are the afflictions of the righteous, whom
219 God is perfecting. Ignore the pain because present hardships cannot
220 compare with future rewards. Take courage suffering one and "rest in
221 the Lord, wait patiently for Him..." (Psalms 37:7). He cares of those
222 who trust in Him (Nahum 1:7). He knows how to deliver [the] godly from
223 trials (2 Peter 2:9). All experiences profit; therefore, rejoice, for
224 after you have endured and overcome, you will hear: "...these are they
225 [that] came out of great tribulation and have washed their robes and
226 made them white in the blood of the Lamb" (Revelation 7:14).

227

228 ANSWER SOURCES: SACRED WRITINGS

229
230 What should be the Christian's attitude in trials, difficulties and
231 oppositions? More answers follow!

232

233 1. "We should not dishonor God by the mournful relation of trials that
234 appear [sore]. **All trials..., received as educators, will produce**
235 **joy.** The complete religious life will be uplifting, elevating,
236 ennobling [and] fragrant with good words and works. The enemy is
237 well pleased to have souls depressed, downcast, mourning and
238 groaning; he wants just such impressions made as to the effect of our
239 faith. **However, God designs that the mind shall take no low level; He**
240 **desires every soul to triumph in the keeping power of the Redeemer.**
241 The psalmist says, "Give unto the Lord, O [you] mighty, and give unto
242 the Lord, glory and strength. Give unto the Lord the glory due unto
243 His name; worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness." I will extol
244 Thee, O Lord, for Thou hast lifted me up and hast not made my foes to
245 rejoice over me. O Lord my God, I cried unto Thee and Thou hast
246 healed me. . . . Sing unto the Lord, O [you] saints of His and give
247 thanks at the remembrance of His holiness" (Psalms 29:1, 2; 30:1-4 in
248 Testimonies for the Church, Volume 6{6T} 365.2).

249

250 2. "Faith grows by conflict with doubt, difficulty and trial. ...The
251 life of the faithful soldier is a battle and a march; no rest, fellow
252 pilgrim, this side the heavenly Canaan..." (Our High Calling, {OHC}
253 361.4). **"In the hour of trial, we should strengthen our souls with**
254 **the assurance that God's promises can never fail.** Whatever He has
255 spoken, will be done" (Life Sketches of Ellen G. White {LS} 265.1).
256 "In every difficulty, [God] has His way prepared to bring relief. Our
257 heavenly Father has a thousand ways to provide for us, of which we
258 know nothing. Those who accept the one principle of making the
259 service and honor of God supreme will find perplexities vanish, and a
260 plain path before their feet" (The Desire of Ages, {DA} 330.1).

261 **"Many of your afflictions have been visited upon you, in the wisdom**
 262 **of God, to bring you closer to the throne of grace. He softens and**
 263 **subdues His children by sorrows and trials.** This world is God's
 264 workshop, where He fashions us for the courts of heaven. He uses the
 265 planning knife upon our quivering hearts until [He removes] the
 266 roughness and irregularities... and we are fit for our proper places
 267 in the heavenly building. **Through tribulation and distress the**
 268 **Christian becomes purified and strengthened and develops a character**
 269 **after the model that Christ has given** (God's Amazing Grace, {AG}
 270 89.3).

271
 272 3. "It was not the teaching of the schools of Egypt that enabled Moses
 273 to triumph over his enemies, but an ever-abiding, unflinching faith,
 274 a faith that did not fail under the most trying circumstances. At the
 275 command of God, Moses advanced, although apparently there was nothing
 276 ahead for his feet to tread upon. More than a million people were
 277 depending on him, and he led them forward step-by-step, day by day.
 278 **God permitted these lonely travels through the wilderness that His**
 279 **people might obtain an experience in enduring hardship, and that when**
 280 **they were in peril they might know that there was relief and**
 281 **deliverance in God alone.** Thus, they might learn to know and to
 282 trust God and to serve Him with a living faith" (Counsels to Parents,
 283 Teachers and Students, {CT} 408.3).

284
 285 4. **"God, in His great love, [...seeks] to develop in us the precious**
 286 **graces of His Spirit. He permits us to encounter obstacles,**
 287 **persecution and hardships, not as a curse, but as the greatest**
 288 **blessing.... Every temptation resisted, every trial bravely borne,**
 289 **gives us a new experience and advances us in... character building"**
 290 (Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing, p. 117 in Colporteur Ministry, {CM}
 291 67.2). "The sum and substance of Christian grace and experience is
 292 to be brought into fellowship with Christ in His self-denial and
 293 humiliation" (Bible Echo, E.G. White, April 15, 1892).

- 294
- 295 5. **"The darkness that will... rest upon our path must not discourage us**
 296 **or drive us to despair. It is the veil with which God covers His**
 297 **glory when He comes to impart rich blessings"** (Testimonies for the
 298 Church, Vol. Five {5T}, 215.3).
 299
- 300 6. "...Jesus sees the end from the beginning. In every difficulty, He
 301 has His way prepared to bring relief. Our heavenly Father has a
 302 thousand ways to provide for us, of which we know nothing. Those who
 303 make the service and honor of God supreme will find perplexities
 304 vanish and a plain path before their feet" (The Desire of Ages, {DA}
 305 330.1).
 306
- 307 7. "...Difficulties bring us into the audience chamber of the Most High
 308 [that] we may seek counsel of [the] One who is infinite in wisdom"
 309 (Christ's Object Lessons, {COL} 172.1).
 310
- 311 8. "If we surrender our lives to His service, we can never be placed in
 312 a position for which God has not made provision. Whatever may be our
 313 situation, we have a Guide to direct our way; whatever our
 314 perplexities, we have a sure Counselor; whatever our sorrow,
 315 bereavement, or loneliness, we have a sympathizing Friend. If in our
 316 ignorance we make missteps, Christ does not leave us. His voice,
 317 clear and distinct, says, 'I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life'"
 318 (John 14:6 in COL 173.1).
 319
- 320 9. To Zerubbabel, governor of the company that returned to Judea, who,
 321 through all the years since their return from Babylon, had been so
 322 sorely tried (Ezra 4 & 5), received a most precious message: **the day**
 323 **was coming... when all the enemies of His people will be cast down.**
 324 In that day, says the Lord of hosts, will I take thee, O Zerubbabel,
 325 My servant, and will make thee as a signet for I have chosen thee"

326 (Haggai 2:23). **Now the governor of Israel could see the meaning of**
 327 **the providence that had led him through discouragement and**
 328 **perplexity; he could discern God's purpose in it all** (Prophets and
 329 Kings, {PK} 577.4). **This personal word to Zerubbabel has been left**
 330 **on record for the encouragement of God's children in every age. God**
 331 **has a purpose in sending trial to his children. He never leads them**
 332 **otherwise than they would choose to be led if they could see the end**
 333 **from the beginning, and discern the glory of the purpose that they**
 334 **are fulfilling. All that He brings upon them in test and trial comes**
 335 **that they may be strong to do and to suffer for Him** (PK 578.1).

336
 337 10. "In the closing years of Judah's apostasy, [prophetic]
 338 exhortations... availed [little]; and as the armies of the Chaldeans
 339 came for the third and last time to besiege Jerusalem, hope fled from
 340 every heart. Jeremiah predicted utter ruin... [insisted] on
 341 surrender [and was put in] prison. But **God left not to hopeless**
 342 **despair the faithful remnant who were still in the city.** ...**Fresh**
 343 **revelations concerning Heaven's willingness to forgive and to save**
 344 **[came to Jeremiah],** which have been an unfailing source of comfort to
 345 the church of God from that day to [now] (PK 466.1). Jeremiah, by
 346 means of an acted parable, illustrated before the inhabitants of the
 347 fated city his strong faith in the ultimate fulfillment of God's
 348 purpose for His people.... **[He] purchased, for 17 shekels of silver,**
 349 **an ancestral field** situated in the neighboring village of **Anathoth"**
 350 (Jeremiah 32:7-9 in PK 466.2) [because] **"with the eye of faith**
 351 **Jeremiah saw the exiles returning at the end of the years of**
 352 **affliction and reoccupying the land of their fathers"** (Jeremiah
 353 32:14-15 & 22 in {PK} 469.1-2). Ezra, Chapters one and two—and in
 354 particular: Ezra 1:1-4; 2:1-2—fulfilled God's vision of repatriation
 355 to Jerusalem, ensuring that God's word accomplished what God intended
 356 (Isaiah 55:11; Jeremiah 24:5-7).

357

358 SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS: Difficulties and trials develop in us precious
359 graces of the spirit. They also bring us into the audience chamber of
360 the Most High, that we might seek counsel of Him who is infinite in
361 wisdom. Never will the faithful God put us in positions for which He
362 has not already made provision. All that God permits to come upon us
363 will strengthen us and give us a mind to know God, if we surrender to
364 Him, and make the promises of His word our comfort in the crucible of
365 suffering.

366
367 **CONCLUSION: WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?**

368
369 “Christ desires nothing so much as to redeem His heritage from the
370 dominion of Satan. However, before [deliverance] from Satan's power
371 without..., [there must be deliverance] from his power within. **The**
372 **Lord permits trials in order... [to cleanse us] from earthliness, from**
373 **selfishness, from harsh, unchristlike traits of character. He suffers**
374 **the deep waters of affliction to go over our souls in order that we may**
375 **know Him and Jesus Christ whom He has sent,** in order that we may have
376 deep heart longings to be cleansed from defilement, and may come forth
377 from the trial purer, holier [and] happier. Often we enter the furnace
378 of trial with our souls darkened with selfishness; but **if patient under**
379 **the crucial test, we shall come forth reflecting the divine character.**
380 **When His purpose in the affliction is accomplished, He shall bring**
381 **forth thy righteousness as the light and thy judgment as the noonday”**
382 (Psalms 37:6 in COL 174.3).

383
384 “When trials arise that seem unexplainable, we should not allow our
385 peace to be spoiled. **However unjustly we may be treated, let not**
386 **passion arise. By indulging a spirit of retaliation, we injure**
387 **ourselves.** We **destroy our own confidence in God and grieve the Holy**
388 **Spirit.** There is by our side a witness, a heavenly messenger, who will
389 lift up for us a standard against the enemy. He will shut us in with
390 the bright beams of the Sun of Righteousness” (COL 171.3). “...The

391 Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials" (2 Peter 2:9) or when
392 He does not rescue (Acts 6:8 & 7:59), He gives white robes to them that
393 were slain for the word of God and the testimony of Jesus (Revelation
394 6:9-11).

395
396 In all our difficulties and trials, learn from Bible history that God
397 has a wider agenda to fulfill (read Exodus 13:17 to 14:28; Acts 11:19-
398 21). **"It is always God's purpose to bring light out of darkness, joy
399 out of sorrow and rest out of weariness for the waiting, longing soul"**
400 (Christian Experience & Teachings of Ellen G. White, {CET} 190.1-3).
401 Therefore, "a life in Christ is a life of restfulness. There may be no
402 ecstasy of feeling, but there should be an abiding, peaceful trust.
403 Your hope is not in yourself, it is in Christ. Your weakness is united
404 to His strength, your ignorance to His wisdom [and] your frailty to His
405 enduring might" (A New Life, {NL}, 40.3). Dear sufferer, take hold of
406 God's promises in your suffering because in Jesus Christ, "...all the
407 undertakings of God [and] ...all the words of God are made certain and
408 put into effect to the glory of God through us" (2 Corinthians 1:20,
409 Basic English Bible). "...All the promises of God in Him are yes..."
410 (2 Corinthians 1:20, Modern KJV). Sometimes your heart will feel the
411 sentence of death, but know for sure that God permits hardship that we
412 might not rely on ourselves, but on God who raises the dead. He will
413 deliver us from peril (read 2 Corinthians 1:8-10).

414
415 **CALL TO ACTION: WHAT SHALL WE DO?**

416
417 "We must **cherish and cultivate the faith** of which prophets and apostles
418 have testified—the faith **that lays hold on the promises of God and**
419 **waits for deliverance in His appointed time and way.** Let us ever hold
420 in remembrance the cheering message, 'The vision is yet for an
421 appointed time, but at the end it shall speak and not lie, though it
422 tarry, wait for it, because it will surely come" (Habakkuk 2:3 in
423 Conflict and Courage, {CC}, 242.5). Union with God, the Holy Spirit
424 and Christ was the strength of those who in the past have suffered
425 persecution.... **...Be of good cheer.... 'Fear... not!** [God is] with

426 [you]; **be not dismayed**; [He is your] God: [He] will strengthen [you];
 427 ...help [you and]; ...uphold [you] with the right hand of [His]
 428 righteousness'" (John 16:33; Isaiah 41:10 in AA 85.1). Christ dwelling
 429 in the soul is a wellspring of joy (COL 162.1). "[Therefore] let them
 430 that suffer according to the will of God **commit the keeping of their**
 431 **souls to Him in well doing**, as unto a faithful Creator" (1 Peter 4:19).

432
 433 **"Trust in God; bring all your worries... to Jesus Christ** that [you] may
 434 become better acquainted with Him" (The Upward Look, {UL} 180.3).
 435 **"Cast all your care upon Him; He cares for you"** (1 Peter 5:7).
 436 "...Pour out your heart before Him, God is a refuge for us" (Pss 62:8).
 437 "The path that Christ marks out is a narrow, self-denying path" (Ev
 438 479.3). **"Do not take your troubles to human beings; take them to the**
 439 **Lord.** ...Jesus never disappoints the one who comes to Him for help.
 440 He says, 'Come unto me... and I will give you rest' (Matthew 11:28).
 441 ...No one who comes to Him goes away un-helped" (In Heavenly Places
 442 {HP} 275.2) for "Jesus lives to make intercession for us. ...Our lives
 443 are only secure... with Christ in God. In Him alone are our hopes....
 444 We will then talk faith, ...hope, ...courage and diffuse light..."
 445 (That I May Know Him, {TMK} 284.4).

446
 447 **"Let faith pierce the blackness and rejoice in the Sun of**
 448 **Righteousness"** (TMK 284.3). "In the darkest hour, under circumstances
 449 the most forbidding, the Christian believer may **keep [the] soul stayed**
 450 **upon the source of all light and power"** (CC, 242.4). **"God will keep**
 451 **him/her in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed upon God"** (Isaiah 26:3).
 452 God engraves us on the palm of His hands (Isaiah 49:15-16) and never
 453 leaves [us] comfortless (John 14:18); therefore, **"...fight... every**
 454 **hour, the good fight of faith....** If [we] **bear [our trials] patiently,**
 455 THEY WILL REFINE, PURIFY, ENNOBLE AND ELEVATE [US] SPIRITUALLY" (TMK)
 456 284.2).