

How God Uses Pain & Suffering to Teach Us Obedience & Surrender

“Though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered.” (Hebrews 5:8)

Even the Son of God “learned obedience” – and He did so by suffering.

Although the Father’s answers to His prayer clearly involved hardship, Jesus never quit praying or obeying. It was precisely in His afflictions that Jesus “learned obedience” in the sense of personally and practically taking hold of every aspect of obedience in every situation that awaited Him

In light of the Lord’s example, we should see suffering not as discouraging but as an opportunity to make further progress in obedience. . . . When God takes you into a time of affliction, remember that this was the method the Father used to teach His Son obedience, resulting in reverent submission to the purpose of God.

Example from Christ’s life:

“Often His incessant labor and the conflict with the enmity...of the rabbis left Him so utterly wearied that His mother and brothers and even the disciples, feared that His life would be sacrificed. – MH, p. 55

Enmity: denotes a strong, settled feeling of hatred whether concealed, displayed or latent.

Christ’s solution: (Take it to the Lord in prayer)

His humanity made prayer a necessity and privilege. . . . Christ found **comfort and joy in communion with His Father.** Here He could unburden His heart of the sorrows that were crushing Him. He was a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. – 2T, p. 201

With strong crying and tears He sent His petitions to heaven, that His human nature might be strengthened, that He might be braced to meet the wily foe in all his deceptive workings. . . . – MH, p. 500

Application for My Life:

When God’s child finds that Satan is working through others to bring he/she down (through judging, criticizing or gossiping – the work of the rabbis) follow Christ’s example. With “strong crying and tears,” He petitioned God to give Him the strength to live above the circumstances. He also prayed sincerely for those who were causing Him so much pain and hardship.

Christ never took time to entertain a thought of resentment. He continually went to His Father and there found wisdom, strength, comfort and joy.

Christ continually focused on the fact that His Father was in control of ALL that entered His life. And if His Father had allowed suffering to touch His life, His response would be immediate obedience to accept the suffering and grow to deeper in obedience through it.

The Father's presence encircled Christ, and nothing befell Him but that which infinite love permitted for the blessing of the world. Here was His source of comfort, and it is for us. He who is imbued with the Spirit of Christ abides in Christ. Whatever comes to him comes from the Savior, who surrounds him with His presence. Nothing can touch him except by the Lord's permission. All our sufferings and sorrows, all our temptations and trials, all our sadness and griefs, all our persecutions and privations, in short, all things work together for our good. All experiences and circumstances are God's workmen whereby good is brought to us. {MH 488.4}

When God reveals His will it can require real hardship in the life of the one who is following after Christ. It will often include much pain, especially at the front end of the assignment....There's a cost to following after Christ that's real and often painful.

Our Father's desire is to take us from a cognitive (head) knowledge of His Word and give us an experiential (heart) knowledge.

Through pain & suffering we grow to experience:

The Lord is my Shepherd (I know He is) and I shall not want. – Psalms 23:1

(I know that) The battle is the Lord's. – 1 Samuel 17:47

And the peace of God, which passes earthly understanding will guard your hearts
And mind in Christ Jesus. – Philippians 4:7

(I know that) you thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good.
– Genesis 50:20

(I am convinced that) ALL things work together for good for those who love God
and are called according to His name. – Romans 8:28

(And I know that) Now, we are the children of God.
– 1 John 3:2

(And my experience is that) If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to
forgive our sins and to clean us up from all unrighteousness. – 2 Cor. 5:17

(And that we can survive if we) Cast ALL our cares on Him because He cares for us. -1
Peter 5:7. (And remember that) God acts in behalf of those who wait for Him. – Isaiah 64:4