

Enduring Trials

Scripture

“So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD, and struck Job with painful boils from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head. And he took for himself a potsherd with which to scrape himself while he sat in the midst of the ashes. Then his wife said to him, "Do you still hold fast to your integrity? Curse God and die!" But he said to her, "You speak as one of the foolish women speaks. Shall we indeed accept good from God, and shall we not accept adversity?" . . . (Job 2:7-10 NKJV).

Thesis

Enduring trials requires that we focus on eternity.

Commentary

What a wonderful and right attitude Job had about his condition. The temptation is always to do what his wife suggested, to curse God because of our pain and sorrow. However, in doing so, we fail to believe the promise that all things work together for good for those who love God and called according to His purpose (Rom. 8:28).

Again, the secret is to live for eternity and not for today. God desires that we live by faith. Very often, we cannot see the good of a situation, but God has promised everything is for our good. It takes faith to walk in that light. As soon as we grumble, the grace we could have is taken away, and our misery is compounded. This happens not by God adding more to it, but by our walking through it without Him.

The good may not be realized materially in this world. The greatest blessing Job received from his suffering is the honor he holds now for eternity. His trial is recorded in Scripture and his life will be noted forever in heaven. Look at God's promise in the following passage.

“The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs— heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with [Him], that we may also be glorified together. For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy [to be compared] with the glory which shall be revealed in us” (Romans 8:16-18 NKJV).

If we could catch a glimpse of eternity, I know we would have no problem enduring anything as we waited for it. We just can't understand what it will be like to stand in the presence of God. I mean there are angels that have, since they were created, I assume, been crying holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty (Isa. 6:3). We will worship Him without ceasing forever. This demands that He be worthy of worship or we would surely tire after a few centuries.

Whatever it is that God is asking you to endure, endure it by faith with your eyes focused on heaven. Remember, He has promised it will all work out.

Prayer

Father, give us your grace for every trial, amen.

