

## The Value of Adversity

### Commentary from Imitations of Christ

IT IS good for us to have trials and troubles at times, for they often remind us that we are on probation and ought not to hope in any worldly thing. It is good for us sometimes to suffer contradiction, to be misjudged by men even though we do well and mean well. These things help us to be humble and shield us from vainglory. When to all outward appearances men give us no credit, when they do not think well of us, then we are more inclined to seek God who sees our hearts. Therefore, a man ought to root himself so firmly in God that he will not need the consolations of men.

When a man of good will is afflicted, tempted, and tormented by evil thoughts, he realizes clearly that his greatest need is God, without whom he can do no good. Saddened by his miseries and sufferings, he laments and prays. He wearies of living longer and wishes for death that he might be dissolved and be with Christ. Then he understands fully that perfect security and complete peace cannot be found on earth—(Author Unknown).

### Thoughts from Word for the Day

#### Scripture

“My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have [its] perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing. If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; [he is] a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways. Let the lowly brother glory in his exaltation, but the rich in his humiliation, because as a flower of the field he will pass away. For no sooner has the sun risen with a burning heat than it withers the grass; its flower falls, and its beautiful appearance perishes. So the rich man also will fade away in his pursuits. Blessed [is] the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.” (James 1:2-12 NKJV)

#### Commentary

What lifts the soul from despair in the midst of temptation is the thought that there is a divine purpose for all things. Our ultimate purpose is to glorify God. We do this primarily by joyfully submitting to His will. This is difficult, but the difficulty ensures our sincerity.

Live above the trials today, and glorify our wonderful Savior. We have the promise that “. . . all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to [His] purpose” (Romans 8:28 NKJV). We need to act like we believe that promise.

#### Prayer

Father, give us strength for our hour of temptation. Show us our way of escape. Comfort us as we struggle to live victoriously. May your will be accomplished in and through our lives, amen.

