

"My soul is weary of my life; I will leave my complaint upon myself; I will speak in the bitterness of my soul. I will say unto God, 'Do Not Condemn Me; Show Me wherefore Thou Contendest with me.'" Job 10:1-2 KJV

How often does it seem God is hiding? Your prayers seem unanswered? Your days hopeless? Your nights sleepless? Your life arduous? God may be using you to silence mockers or bolster someone's faith. We're so accustomed to ease that when suffering comes, we think it chastisement. Never question God! *"Who art thou that repliest against God? Shall the thing formed say to him that formed it, 'Why hast Thou made me thus?'"* If you're God's child, chastisement will be plainly revealed to you. Sin will be plainly known. God does not work in darkness. *"In Him is no darkness at all."* Never doubt in darkness what you've seen in Light. Wait patiently and quietly. *"They that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint. Be still and know that I Am God."* Our Saviour endured scourging, buffeting, false accusations, a crown of thorns, and His beard plucked from His face by ruthless Roman soldiers, yet kept silent. *"He was oppressed, and He was afflicted, yet He opened not his mouth: He [was] brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so He [opened] not His mouth."*



Jesus reminds us, *"The servant is not greater than his Lord."* God may allow Satan to attack faith's jewel so it may reflect His glorious Light in darkest circumstances of this temporal vapor! Perhaps God is waiting for you to do as Paul and Silas did. *"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: and the prisoners heard them. And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken: and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one's bands were loosed."* When wounded and bound in the dark, pray and sing God's praise! He may loosen your bands with earth shaking harmony! Stand steadfast and, while you may be thrown into the furnace, God will walk with you there, and the flames will only destroy the cords that bind you; they will never harm you!

When suffering brings on painful tears,
Let prayer and praises grace God's ears,
In life's dark shadows have no fear,
Your Saviour's care is always near. –CGP

Dear believer, never think yourself forsaken; *"for He Hath Said, 'I Will Never Leave thee, nor Forsake thee.'"* There is nowhere God is not! Suffering reveals your faith so YOU may know it real. You may even have to come to the point of raising the sacrificial knife, as Abraham, before God intervenes on your behalf. Abraham completely obeyed God without question or murmur even to the point of sacrificing his only son. In what I'm sure was his darkest hour, *"Abraham believed God, and it was Counted unto him for Righteousness and he was Called the Friend of God."* Friendship proves itself in suffering. Jesus Said, *"Ye are my friends IF ye do whatsoever I Command you."* God Desires your friendship. Do you desire His?

"My brethren, count it all Joy when ye fall into divers (different) temptations; knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing. If any of you lack Wisdom, let him ask of God, that Giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and It Shall Be Given him." James 1:2-5 KJV