

*"Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for **When I Am Weak, Then Am I Strong.**" 2 Corinthians 12:10 KJV*

Do you smile when you stub your toe? Probably not. Do you often find yourself struggling just to keep up? It is that very same weakness that allows our Lord to demonstrate the Power of His Majestic Deliverance. The faithful are trophies to His Grace and Love. "That in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His Grace in His Kindness toward us through Christ Jesus." Ever met anyone who hid their trophies? They usually occupy a place of prominence; the mantel, a glass case, the chest of a decorated hero, or a ribbon around the neck. The faithful are in a prominent place in this world, and the next, where God displays His Grace, Love, and Glory. The darker the night the brighter the light. "Let your Light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in Heaven." It is Christ in us; Who is the Light. It is He Who illuminates the trophy case. Diamonds have no beauty in the dark. Do we not hear with tears the recounting of our Lord's Suffering while here on earth? His Agony breaks our heart. Believers are no less the object of God's plan. The faithful are "The Body of Christ." Should we have beds of ease while our Lord endured the greatest agony in history, past or future, to redeem us from the bondage of death? "The Spirit Itself beareth



Witness with our spirit, that we are the Children of God: And if Children, then Heirs; Heirs of God, and Joint-Heirs with Christ; IF SO BE THAT WE SUFFER WITH HIM, that we may be also glorified together. For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the Glory which shall be revealed in us. For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation (revealing) of the sons (children) of God." The trials of our earthly pilgrimage allow our Lord to show His Salvation to the unbelieving masses of humanity just as He did when He rose again in triumph over the best attempts of His enemies to end His existence. "He made a show of them openly, triumphing over them in it." Eternal Life mocks and challenges unbelief, because our strength is not our own, "for it is God which worketh in [us] both to will and to do of His good pleasure." The rain falls on the just and the unjust. It's not the ABSENCE of trouble that identifies the believer and glorifies God, but his unwavering Hope and endurance IN trouble. Our Lord is our example. "Who for the JOY that was set before Him endured the cross." When you hang, totally forsaken, on a cross under a blackened noonday sky, you may think to complain, but remember, even then, all our Lord asked was, "Why?"

Cheerfully endure come what may,
Look forward to a Brighter Day,
Let God be all your Hope and stay.
Til safe ashore in Heaven's Day! –CGP

Slow traffic, infirmities, inabilities, and idiots test our faith; allowing the Spirit's Guidance to reveal Truth in action to a lost and dying world. "The Lord is not slack concerning His Promise, as some men count slackness; but is Longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." Our eternal future living with Jesus is our Joy, not our present trial! "He will dwell with them, and they shall be His People, and God Himself shall be with them, and be their God." With God, forever! What Joy is yet to come!

"But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the Excellency of the Knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ" Philippians 3:7-8 KJV