

“Let the brother of low degree rejoice in that he is exalted: But the rich, in that he is made low: because as the flower of the grass he shall pass away. For the sun is no sooner risen with a burning heat, but it withereth the grass, and the flower thereof falleth, and the grace of the fashion of it perisheth: so also shall the rich man fade away in his ways.” James 1:9-11 KJV



Circumstances are to life like a pot to a plant. Alternatively, the same plant rooted near a running brook will flourish. When circumstances dictate thought and action we become potted. *“Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly (worldly wisdom), nor standeth in the way of sinners (worldly philosophies), nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful (worldly friendships). But his delight is in the Law of the LORD; and in His Law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.”* A pot restricts, stunts, and sometimes even kills the plant. Circumstances and possessions are of little consequence if our faith is rooted in the “Living Water” of God’s Word. Faith seems a step down for the wealthy, while it is treasure to the impoverished believer who has tried and tested God’s infinite ability to “give us this day our daily bread.” The wealthy must guard wealth constantly or lose it, while the poor believer confidently trusts Father for everything, frets over nothing, and “in everything gives thanks!” Faith exalts the lowly and humbles the wealthy, because it brings all into the position of dependence on God, where all are equally inadequate and Loved. Peter sank when the storm diverted his focus from Christ. It had had no effect on the ability his faith had procured. When he abdicated faith, he lost his ability to do the impossible! As soon as he repented and turned back to Christ, crying out, “Lord, save me!” he was immediately rescued! “Jesus saves” is always present tense and available to “whosoever shall call!” Notice our Lord waited until Peter called before saving him; not until Peter knew it was faith and God’s power that got him there and that only faith and God’s power could rescue him. I have no doubt Peter was a good swimmer. But the waves were too much for even him and he had to turn to Christ or perish! So it is when we try and try to surmount the waves of circumstance without faith. We may succeed for a moment, but unless we turn to God in faith, we will perish! *“The just shall live by his faith.”* It seems the stronger the swimmer, the less dependent on God! God may cripple ability to show us Himself: Just a thought.

Our human strength will fade away,
Unless our eyes on Jesus stay,
And though beset by foe and fray,
Our Savior’s pow’r will save the day! -CGP

Are you letting the “pot” of circumstance stunt your faith in God? Has the storm frightened and distracted you? Wealth is as much a restrictor of faith as persecution and trial. A runner does not look about while running a race. His focus is on the finish line. Losers just “fade away” when the medals are awarded!

“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.” Romans 8:16-18 KJV