

***"For Unto You It Is Given"** in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on Him, but also to suffer for His Sake." **Philippians 1:29** KJV*

Suffering for Christ's sake is a gift given to a select few! We hardly ever consider suffering a gift, so why is it so for believers? Because it gives us more intimate Knowledge of our Beloved! Beloveds do not consider work toil if spent in procuring the other's pleasure. *"For consider Him that endured such contradiction of sinners against Himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds. What things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. That I may know Him, and the Power of His Resurrection, and the FELLOWSHIP OF HIS SUFFERINGS."* Most



believers opt to live in ease and comfort, and are given to great sorrow at the slightest hint of trouble! But a few care only to please their Blessed Saviour and *"to know Him and the Power of His Resurrection!"* There are no mountaintops without valleys; comfort without suffering; or Resurrection without death. *"The Power of His Resurrection"* refers not only to the physical Resurrection of our bodies when Jesus returns, but the present Resurrection of our spirits *"to walk in newness of Life!"* If you worry and fret over every bump in the road of life, you are in no better shape than unbelievers! The true believer recognizes *"for me to live is Christ and to die is gain! I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's Sake."* It is only when we forsake lust that we experience *"Life more abundantly!"* It is through suffering we are strengthened; no pain, no gain! Pro sports teams have rooms filled with therapy equipment for injuries. God's Word is the therapy of Life, but the Comforter cannot comfort without suffering. Suffering for Christ is a direct result of loving obedience to God's Word. It is even better family forsake you than for you to forsake Christ! *"If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, YEA, AND HIS OWN LIFE ALSO, he cannot be My Disciple."* Our love of God must supersede earthly affections by such a degree as to make them appear hate by comparison! This may appear harsh, but Christ's Gift of Suffering allows His children *"to know Him AND the Power of His Resurrection!"* You are one of the favored few if you can proclaim with the Apostle, *"Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the Power of Christ may rest upon me."* Is your suffering a gift from God or consequence of lust and covetousness? Need and want are very different. God only promised to supply our needs, not our wants. *"Your Father knoweth what things ye have NEED of, BEFORE YE ASK Him. Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? And one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father. Fear ye not therefore, ye are of more value than many sparrows."* I need only ask Father and then trustingly await His Provision. However, request for need and intercession for another are two different things.

My sufferings for the cause of Christ,
Give unto me "Abundant Life,"
The resurrecting Pow'r of Christ,
Which supersedes all earthly strife! ~CGP

I can only love God's Law if I know, believe, and prove it, and then it will comfort me in deepest woe with Peace that *"passeth all understanding,"* and Joy in the blackest of midnight hours! *"Contentment with Godliness is great gain."* You'll find yourself comfortless in trial if you love self more than God and His Word!

"Great Peace have they which love Thy Law: and NOTHING shall offend them." Psalms 119:165 KJV