

**How often do we find ourselves THINKING WRONG when we are in the midst of an earthly trial or affliction that God has sent into our lives? “And WE KNOW that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose”**

Our earthly trials and afflictions are designed by our Father God or our good!

How often have we, in our sinful shortsightedness looked upon the blessings of heaven sent afflictions/trials as if they were curses to our “earthly” contentedness?

None of us LIKE to be tried in the furnace of affliction in this life; and yet, if we intend to set our affection on things above, and not on things on this earth, we must come to understand that from the DAY that God saved us from our sins, and from the captivity of the wicked one, and from this present evil world; FROM THAT TIME we became sons and daughters of God; from that day forward, God was our Heavenly Father, NOT the wicked one.

From that day forward, our “NEW” Father began to teach us and to guide us in His ways and in His commandments; to conform us to the image of Christ, who is NOW and always to be our “example” in this life.

If you’re in Christ, you are adopted into the family of God, with your adoption comes GREAT privileges; as a child of God you NOW enjoy the intimate love of a Heavenly Father along with His compassion, His sympathy, His listening ear, His heavenly riches, and YES, very often, His loving discipline and correction.

**You must always remember/believe that whatever God is doing in your life is RIGHT! (V65): “Thou hast dealt well with thy servant, O LORD, according unto thy Word”**

The worst thing that you and I could do is to “kick against the pricks” of God’s providence in our lives. When trials and afflictions come, know that God has sent them for your good. *Proverbs 3:10-11*

If you’ve sinned against Him; like a Good Heavenly Father, He is NOT going to leave you in your sins; He is going to correct you in love. This is an excellent passage to remember when you find yourself in the furnace of affliction:

*“Thou has dealt well with thy servant, O LORD, according unto thy Word”*

Consider that this stanza begins with the Psalmist in the blessed and peaceful state of having been instructed by God; he has come through the furnace of affliction; he has been humbled, corrected, and sanctified.

He has been brought into a closer intimacy with His God; his spiritual vision is no longer blurred to His Heavenly Father’s loving and intimate dealings with him.

NOW, only after his afflictions is he “TEACHABLE”

*Psalm 119:66, 68, 71, 75*

**“Before I was afflicted I went astray: but NOW I have kept thy Word”; NOTE that there is “BEFORE” and “NOW”(V67):**

Before I was afflicted (or as it means, before I was humbled), I went astray; I wandered from the good and right ways of God! I wandered from the family of God like a wayward child!

*Our heaven sent afflictions are always for our good; always designed to humble us before our God and Heavenly Father.*

Going spiritually astray is a place that we find ourselves in at times as a result of our own sins and spiritual laziness; when we mindlessly and prayerlessly drift back into the world, and when we stray from Christ and from His Word. But our Father is always there with His “rod and staff” to bring us back into the fold.

*2 Chronicles 33:9-13, Jeremiah 22:21, Hebrews 12:5-13*

**Hebrews 12:12-13: “Wherefore”: KNOW that your afflictions and chastisements are sent to you by God; they are a clear sign and token of God’s watch care over you.**

So lift up (or strengthen) your weak hands that are hanging and drooping, and lift up and strengthen your feeble knees that are shaking; stop weakening yourself in what God has designed to strengthen you!

Don’t be depressed; God is VERY PRESENTLY with you when you are tried.

*But often times we find ourselves “stifled” and stopped in our Christian life because of our afflictions and trials; but we MUST soldier on!*

Press on in your Christian life; get your eyes out of the dirt and look to the heavens and to your God from whence your strength comes! Walk by faith and NOT by sight!

*23 Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.*

*24 Put away from thee a froward mouth, and perverse lips put far from thee.*

*25 Let thine eyes look right on, and let thine eyelids look straight before thee.*

*26 Ponder the path of thy feet, and let all thy ways be established.*

*27 Turn not to the right hand nor to the left: remove thy foot from evil.. Proverbs 4:23-27*