

Welcome friends to another broadcast of “Morsels for Zion’s Poor”

One of the “constants” in the outworking of faith in the Christian’s life is that few things are constant. As the SPIRIT of GOD works in them both to will and to do of HIS good pleasure, HE brings HIS children through many different experiences. There are seasons of great light and seasons of looming darkness. There are times when zeal and fervor are at their peak and then there are times of comfortable complacency and even apathy. There are moments of great peace, when all is well in mind and soul and then there are moments when anxiety and even fear grips that same mind causing the child of GOD to reel to and fro as a drunkard.

Paul describes such varied states when he writes to the Corinthians telling them of his determination to be found among them as a faithful minister; *“in much patience, in afflictions, in necessities, in distresses, In stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labours, in watchings, in fastings.”* One of the most damnable lies that Satan has seen fit to try to confuse the saints of GOD with is the notion that if they are true believers then they will always be living in a triumphant state, ever overcoming all obstacles and whenever they encounter any troubles they will always have victory in every situation. The purveyors of darkness have sought to thus accuse and trouble the saints in every age even as those *“physicians of no value”* and *“miserable comforters”* sought to upbraid and charge Job with unfaithfulness and disobedience. This same notion is carried on in our day by those who teach the notion of *“progressive sanctification”*, *“the power of positive thinking”*, *“name it and claim it”*, and a *“health and wealth gospel”*. They would deride the children of GOD as having no faith at all because they are not attempting and accomplishing *“great things”*, while confessing *“victory”* and *“triumph”* on every hand.

The fact is that it is in the very doubtings and fears, weaknesses, and distresses (which the LORD sees fit to bring upon HIS own) that the LORD is pleased to teach HIS children a very vital lesson which those who are always *“strong in the faith”* going about to establish their own righteousness, can never learn or understand. This is that which Paul describes as he relates the trials that were given to him by his *“thorn in the flesh”*. *“And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. 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.”*

It is in this weakness brought on by the fires of afflictions, in body, mind, and soul, that the true sons of GOD are driven to CHRIST, confessing that they have no strength. It is when a man is weaned from the notion of discovering any *“triumph”* in himself and is in mind and heart brought down to the feet of CHRIST, crying out for mercy and grace to help in time of need, that his strength is seen. This is when the sons of GOD are strong, not when they are boasting and preening in their triumphant *“faith”* and imagined strengths. David speaks of thirsting after GOD; *“My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God: when shall I come and appear before God?”* He uses the illustration of the deer’s longing for a cool drink of water as perhaps a hunter on horseback with his dogs in hot pursuit, or possibly wolves that have set upon its trail and pursue its very life. This is not a calm pastoral scene but one which is fraught with danger, uncertainty, and fear. When a man is awakened by the SPIRIT of GOD and is acquainted with his own frailty and the perils which beset him on every side, he, just like the hart, longs for deliverance. He is *“panting”* because of the weariness which besets him, but he is also *“panting”* as one that knows that the cool liquid of the FOUNTAIN of living waters can slake his thirst, cool his fevered brow, and refresh his aching feet.

Paul understood his own barrenness and confessed that he had not arrived yet at that place he desired to be. He makes no boast of his triumph but looks longingly towards that ONE who is his STRENGTH. He confesses that he sees the BROOK flowing in the distance and like one who has soothed his parched throat there in times past presses forward towards its lifegiving flow. *“That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death.”* *“So panteth my soul after thee, O God.”* It is natural that a man should desire his own comfort, yet this innate desire is the very cause of his destruction when he becomes satisfied with his own perceived standing and is not hungering and thirsting after the presence of GOD as a man who is perishing daily. That salvation which the SPIRIT of GOD is presently working out in the sons of GOD is not that which they can presently boast in, but rather that which they longingly desire to see manifested in themselves. Do you long to know CHRIST?

***“Thy free grace alone,”*#11 If you would like a free transcript of this broadcast email us at forthe poor@windstream.net**