

TOPIC	REF #	TEXT
-------	-------	------

Cowboy Poetry 707-26

Black and White

The popular culture of our day
writes it's rules in shades of gray.
It wanders about with impaired sight
unable to focus on wrong and right.

Ignored today is the God of creation,
replaced by our ethics of situation.
The modern world is losing it's way,
it's map is printed in shades of gray.

We live in a world engulfed by fear,
following a map that isn't clear.
We're off the path, we're going astray,
we follow lines of neutral gray.

Eternal truth God once could seal,
it stands above how people feel.
God's word is forever a shining light,
He writes His map in black and white.

The truth revealed once by the Lord,
will sever confusion as a two-edged sword.
He patiently waits to offer His light
that again we'll see in black and white.

If we submit to His mighty hand,
He'll deliver this people and heal our land.
The choice is ours to make today,
black and white or shades of gray.
(Disc 2, Track 10)



Billy Graham's Prayer For Our Nation

THIS MAN SURE HAS A GOOD VIEW OF WHAT'S HAPPENING TO OUR COUNTRY!

'Heavenly Father, we come before you today to ask your forgiveness and to seek your direction and guidance. We know Your Word says, 'Woe to those who call evil good,' but that is exactly what we have done. We have lost our spiritual equilibrium and reversed our values. We have exploited the poor and called it the lottery. We have rewarded laziness and called it welfare. We have killed our unborn and called it choice. We have shot abortionists and called it justifiable. We have neglected to discipline our children and called it building self esteem. We have abused power and called it politics. We have coveted our neighbor's possessions and called it ambition. We have polluted the air with profanity and pornography and called it freedom of expression. We have ridiculed the time-honored values of our forefathers and called it enlightenment. Search us, Oh God, and know our hearts today; cleanse us from every sin and Set us free. Amen!'

Commentator Paul Harvey aired this prayer on his radio program, 'The Rest of the Story,' and received a larger response to this program than any other he has ever aired. With the Lord's help, may this prayer sweep over our nation and wholeheartedly become our desire so that we again can be called 'One nation under God..'

Think about this: If you forward this prayer to everyone on your e-mail list, in less than 30 days it would be heard by the world.

(It's worth a try!)

One Nation Under **God.**



ILLUSTRATION

Accepting That Death Is Inevitable

Send to printer

Topics: Death; Death, physical; Mortality; Perspective; Worldliness; Worry

Filters: Humor; Stories

References: Psalm 39:4-5 , Psalm 90:1-12 , Proverbs 3:5 , Ecclesiastes 1:12-18 , Ecclesiastes 3:1-22 , Ecclesiastes 9:1-12 , Ecclesiastes 12:1-14 , Matthew 10:29-31 , Matthew 11:28 , John 3:3 , John 16:8 , Acts 3:19 , 1 Corinthians 1:9 , 1 Corinthians 1:17-31 , 2 Corinthians 5:17 , James 4:14 , 2 Peter 3:11-12 , 1 John 4:19 , Revelation 22:17

Tone: Neutral/Mixed

I was on an airplane and the flight attendant started going through the pre-flight spiel, instructing us on what to do "in case of a water landing."

I looked around. We were on a 747 jet. This plane isn't equipped with pontoons. A 747 doesn't "land" on the water. It explodes on impact into pieces the size of my toenail.

The proper way to prepare for an event like this is not to stick your head between your knees (as if there were room to do that anyway) but to scream until your throat bleeds and pray in six languages at once.

I arrived home (without experiencing a water landing, thankfully) and turned on the TV, and a commercial came on for life insurance. This guy walks onto the set all somber-looking and explains the benefits of their policy. Then he says I should sign up so my family will be taken care of "in case the unthinkable should happen." Of course, by "the unthinkable," he means "in case you die."

But the thing is, death isn't unthinkable; it's inevitable.

What kind of culture calls things that are inevitable unthinkable? What kind of world refuses to think about what is certain but instead spends its time worrying about things that aren't?

Steven James, Sailing Between the Stars (Revell, 2006), pp. 130-131

[▲ back to top](#)

[Home](#) | [About Us](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [My Account](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Advertise with Us](#) | [Help & Info](#)

© 2009 PreachingToday.com & Christianity Today International



ILLUSTRATION

The Necessity of Adversity

Send to printer

Topics: Adversity; Attitudes; Children; Circumstances and faith; Dedication; Desert; Discernment; Endurance; Experiencing God; Faith; Faithfulness; Growth; Hardship; Knowing God; Pain; Parenting; Perception; Perseverance; Perspective; Sanctification; Self-examination; Spiritual formation; Spiritual growth; Spiritual perception; Suffering; Testing; Tests; Transformation; Trials; Trouble; Trust; Uncertainties; Valleys; Waiting on God; Will of God; Wisdom

Filters: Stories; Youth & Children

References: Proverbs 3:5-6 , Romans 5:3-4 , Romans 8:37-39 , Romans 12:12-13 , James 1:1-2 , 1 Peter 1:6-7 , 1 Peter 5:10

Tone: Neutral/Mixed

In an on-line article for *Leadership* journal, John Ortberg discusses how adverse situations are necessary for our spiritual growth. He writes:

Psychologist Jonathon Haidt had a hypothetical exercise: Imagine that you have a child, and for five minutes you're given a script of what will be that child's life. You get an eraser. You can edit it. You can take out whatever you want.

You read that your child will have a learning disability in grade school. Reading, which comes easily for some kids, will be laborious for yours.

In high school, your kid will make a great circle of friends; then one of them will die of cancer.

After high school this child will actually get into the college they wanted to attend. While there, there will be a car crash, and your child will lose a leg and go through a difficult depression.

A few years later, your child will get a great job—then lose that job in an economic downturn.

Your child will get married, but then go through the grief of separation.

You get this script for your child's life and have five minutes to edit it.

What would you erase?

Wouldn't you want to take out all the stuff that would cause them pain?

I am part of a generation of adults called "helicopter parents," because we're constantly trying to swoop into our kid's educational life, relational life, sports life, etc., to make sure no one is mistreating them, no one is disappointing them. We want them to experience one unobstructed success after another.

One Halloween a mom came to our door to trick or treat. Why didn't she send in her kid? Well, the weather's a little bad, she said; she was driving so he didn't have to walk in the mist.

But why not send him to the door? He had fallen asleep in the car, she said, so she didn't want him to have to wake up.

I felt like saying, "Why don't you eat all his candy and get his stomach ache for him, too—then he can be completely protected!"

If you could wave a wand, if you could erase every failure, setback, suffering, and pain—are you sure it would be a good idea? Would it cause your child to grow up to be a better, stronger, more generous person? Is it possible that in some way people actually need adversity, setbacks, maybe even something like trauma to reach the fullest level of development and growth?

Condensed from our sister publication *Leadership journal*, © 2009 Christianity Today International. For more articles like this, visit Leadershipjournal.net.

John Ortberg, "The Good News amid the Bad News," *LeaderJournal.net* (3-9-09)

▲ [back to top](#)

[Home](#) | [About Us](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [My Account](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Advertise with Us](#) | [Help & Info](#)

© 2009 PreachingToday.com & Christianity Today International

LETTERS TO YOUNG CHURCHES

- proper respect—not only to the good and kind, but also to the difficult. A man does something valuable when he endures pain, as in the sight of God, though he knows he is suffering unjustly. After all, it is no credit to you if you are patient in bearing a punishment which you have richly deserved! But if you do your duty and are punished for it and can still accept it patiently, you are doing something worthwhile in God's sight. Indeed this is part of your calling. For Christ suffered for you and left you a personal example, and wants you to follow in his steps. He was guilty of no sin or the slightest prevarication. Yet when he was insulted he offered no insult in return. When he suffered he made no threats of revenge. He simply committed his cause to the one who judges fairly. And he personally bore our sins in his own body on the cross, so that we might be dead to sin and be alive to all that is good. It was the suffering that he bore which has healed you. You had wandered away like so many sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

PATTERN NUMBER TEN
KEEP A GOOD ATTITUDE 4:12-19

KEY VERSE: 4:16 "But if one is suffering as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him be glorifying God in this name."

MEMORY VERSES: 4:12, 13,

TEXT: 4:12 - 19

"Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal which is coming upon you, to test you as though something strange were happening to you. But inasmuch as you are sharing the sufferings of Christ, be rejoicing in order that also at the revelation of his glory, you might shout for joy. If you are being reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed because the spirit of glory and the Spirit of God is resting upon you. For let not one of you be suffering as a murderer or as a thief or a wrong doer or as a meddler in other men's matters. But if one is suffering as a Christian, let him not be ashamed but let him be glorifying God in this name. For the time is come for judgment to begin at the house of God. If it begins with us first, what shall be the end of those who are not obeying the gospel of God. And if he who is righteous is with difficulty being saved, where will the ungodly and sinner appear. Therefore also let those who are suffering according to the will of God, be entrusting their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good."

EXPOSITION: Bob Richards in his book The Heart of a Champion writes about the greatest baseball player who has ever lived according to his opinion. "Some of you may disagree with me as to who that baseball player is but I think of a boy who wasn't a natural who had to do everything the hard way. As a boy he was fat and awkward. He just couldn't seem to do things the easy way. He made error upon error. The story goes that as a bungling kid he made an error and the winning run was scored against his team. One of his team-mates came up to him and threw his glove down in front of him and said 'for heavens sakes, why don't you quit, you're always ruining our team.' The boy looked up and said, 'I know I have made mistakes but I'm going to make one less mistake every day and I'm going to accomplish something in baseball.' This boy tempted to give up in that minute of discouragement worked after hours. He began to practice his swing until he could hit the ball. He worked at first base until he could make the plays and to make the story short, that wobbly awkward kid hardened down to rock. He made the New York Yankees baseball team, he played 2,130 consecutive ball games for the greatest record in baseball. He tied the great Babe Ruth in home runs in one year. He had a life time batting average of well over 300. I think in terms of spirit, attitude and determination, he was the greatest baseball player in history. His name was Lou Gehrig. When you're discouraged, use Gehrig's philosophy and start by saying this, 'I'm going to make one less mistake today.'"

The reason champions are made is because they have a good attitude. They have that unbreakable spirit, that when everything is against them, they still keep on going. That attitude that no matter what happens, they'll give everything they've got in order to win.

Napoleon Hill in his book Think and Grow Rich says "through some strange and powerful principle of mental chemistry which he has never divulged, nature raps up in the impulse of strong desire that something which recognizes no such word as impossible and accepts no such reality as failure. A long while ago a great warrior faced a situation which made it necessary for him to make a decision which insured his success on the battlefield. He was about to send his armies against a powerful foe whose men outnumbered his own. He loaded his soldiers in the boats, sailed to the enemies country, unloaded soldiers and equipment, then gave the order to burn the ships that had carried them. Addressing his men before the first battle he said, 'see the boats going up in smoke? That means that we cannot leave these shores alive unless we win. We now have no choice

1 Cor.
15:58

29. The outlines on the book of First Peter are numerous, yet the big idea of First Peter is a God of grace providing grace for salvation and for submission and for suffering.
30. The key verse for the epistle is chapter 5:10 "But the God of all grace, who has called you to His eternal glory in Christ, (SALVATION) after you have suffered a little while (SUFFERING) shall Himself make you complete, shall establish you, shall make you strong, shall ground you as on a foundation. (SUBMISSION)."
31. The subject of salvation is seen in this section beginning with chapter 1:1 through chapter 2:10. The subject of submission is seen in the section beginning at chapter 2:11 and going through chapter 3:17 and the subject of suffering is seen in the section beginning with chapter 4:1 through 5:14.

OUTLINE OF THE STUDY: PATTERNS TO PRACTICE FROM PETER'S PLAY BOOK

Key verse: 5:10 "But the God of all grace who has called you to His eternal glory in Christ after you have suffered a little while, shall Himself make you complete, shall establish you, shall make you strong, shall ground you, as on a foundation."

Salvation

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------|
| 1. Pattern Number One: Don't Get Shook, God Has the Controls | 1:1 - 1:12 |
| 2. Pattern Number Two: Get Tough and Start Growing | 1:13- 2:3 |
| 3. Pattern Number Three: You are Part of the Establishment | 2:4 - 2:10 |
| 4. Pattern Number Four: Submit to Authority | <u>Submission</u> 2:11- 2:17 |
| 5. Pattern Number Five: Follow the Coach | <u>SUFFERING</u> 2:18- 2:25 |
| 6. Pattern Number Six: When One Plus One Equals One | <u>Marriage</u> 3:1 - 3:7 |
| 7. Pattern Number Seven: Life Can Be Beautiful | <u>11 Qualities</u> 3:8 - 3:12 |
| 8. Pattern Number Eight: The Right Game Plan | <u>Witness</u> 3:13- 3:22 |
| 9. Pattern Number Nine: What You Plant is What You Pick | <u>Fruit</u> 4:1 - 4:11 |
| 10. Pattern Number Ten: Keep A Good Attitude | 4:12- 4:19 |
| 11. Pattern Number Eleven: There Are Laws For Leadership | 5:1 - 5:4 |
| 12. Pattern Number Twelve: The Way Up is Down | 5:5 - 5:14 |

CONCLUSION:

LTim
5:16,17
Paul in writing to Timothy shares with him in chapter three of the second Epistle, the whole Bible was given to us by inspiration from God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It straightens us out and helps us do what is right. It is God's way of making us well prepared at every point, fully equipped to do good to everyone."

My prayer for you as a leader is that you will begin practicing these patterns that Peter gives us and that the living Christ will be seen in you this summer, in all of His glory.

Peter went through a lot of suffering and temptation. A Master For Suffering, Submission, and Witness.

July 16
Thursday

BEHIND THE BUILDING

Last week study

READ:

1 Peter 4:8-11

Be steadfast,
immovable, always
abounding in the work
of the Lord, knowing
that your labor is not in
vain in the Lord.

—1 Corinthians 15:58

THE BIBLE IN ONE YEAR:

■ Psalms 16-17

■ Acts 20:1-16

stand at a line assembling item after endless item. Perhaps we take care of crying babies in the church nursery. Or we live the best Christian life we can—without anyone noticing.

Often our work is “behind the building.” But if that is what God has called us to do, we need to work with all our heart. As part of our calling to love others deeply (1 Peter 4:8), offer hospitality (v.9), and use our gifts to serve others (v.10), our task is to work with God’s strength to bring praise and glory to God, not ourselves. The important thing is that God likes what He sees. —Dave Branon

Though others may not observe us

And see how we serve God today,

Our job as servants of Jesus

Is to please Him in every way. —Branon

No service for Christ goes unnoticed by Him.

Where we were working was hot, dirty, and it smelled bad. We had traveled thousands of miles to do some work projects, and on this day we were painting the back of a classroom building at a school for the deaf. The only people who would ever see this part of the building would be the guy who cut the grass and any unfortunate person who would have to work on the septic pit.

Yet, as the young adults diligently painted away, one of the girls, Melissa, put it in perspective by saying, “Nobody will ever come back here to see this, but God will see it. So let’s make it look nice.” And so we did.

Sometimes we sit at our desk and think no one sees our work. Or we stand at a line assembling item after endless item. Perhaps we take care of crying babies in the church nursery. Or we live the best Christian life we can—without anyone noticing.

Often our work is “behind the building.” But if that is what God has called us to do, we need to work with all our heart. As part of our calling to love others deeply (1 Peter 4:8), offer hospitality (v.9), and use our gifts to serve others (v.10), our task is to work with God’s strength to bring praise and glory to God, not ourselves. The important thing is that God likes what He sees. —Dave Branon

Though others may not observe us

And see how we serve God today,

Our job as servants of Jesus

Is to please Him in every way. —Branon

No service for Christ goes unnoticed by Him.

TOPIC	REF #	TEXT
Servants	761-18	<p>The story is told of a soldier who lay dying and the preacher who came to attend to him. "Can I help you in any way?" the young preacher asked.</p> <p>"I'm cold," snapped the dying man. In silence the minister took off his overcoat and spread it over him.</p> <p>The dying man glared at him awhile. "My neck is hurting," he snarled in pain, and off came the minister's suit coat to serve as a pillow.</p> <p>A few more moments of glaring and then the voice came in a softer tone: "I'd sure like a cigarette." The preacher found a cigarette, lit it, and put it in the soldier's mouth.</p> <p>Finally the soldier said to the compassionate preacher, "Mister, if you've got anything in that Bible that makes you act like this, read it to me."¹</p>

1. Jim McGuiggan, *Jesus, Hero of Thy Soul: Impressions Left by the Savior's touch* (West Monroe, LA: Howard Publishing, 1998), 97-98. p. 161

TOPIC	REF #	TEXT
World	761-03	<p>The other day I heard about a baby camel that asked, "Mom, why do I have these huge three-toed feet?" The mother replied, "To help you stay on top of the soft sand while trekking across the desert."</p> <p>"And why the long eyelashes?"</p> <p>"To keep sand out of your eyes on our trips through the desert."</p> <p>"Why the humps?"</p> <p>"To store water for our long treks across the barren desert."</p> <p>The baby camel considered that and then said, "That's great, Mom. We have huge feet to stop us from sinking, long eyelashes to keep sand out of our eyes, and humps to store water. But, Mom . . ."</p> <p>"Yes, son?"</p> <p>"Why are we in the zoo?"</p> <p>That's a question for all of us to consider. If we've been given all the resources we need to carry our Lord's message far and wide, and if we're completely equipped to fulfill the Great Commission, why do we keep it within the four walls of our churches? <u>The Gospel isn't something we come to church to hear; it's something we go from church to tell.</u></p> <p>pp. 22-23</p>
Witness	761-04	<p>Even if we make up only one percent of our culture, there's a power in the presence of Christians that permeates society and sets into play the grace of God. And William Wilberforce, the statesman who almost single-handedly championed the abolition of slave trading in the British Empire, is living proof of this.</p> <p>Dwarfed by disease, Wilberforce didn't appear to be a person who could accomplish much. But here's what biographer James Boswell wrote after listening to one of his speeches: "I saw a shrimp mount the table; but as I listened, he grew and grew until the shrimp became a whale."</p> <p>It was said of Wilberforce, "Tiny, elfish, misshapen, he was salt to British society, not only bringing preservation but enticement to Christ by his beautiful life. A little salt makes its presence felt."³</p> <p>3. R. Kent Hughes, <i>The Sermon on the Mount: The Message of the Kingdom</i>, Preaching the Word Series (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2001), 80.</p> <p>p. 26</p>

we win or we perish.' They won. Every person who wins in an undertaking must be willing to burn his ships and cut all sources of retreat. Only by so doing can one be sure of maintaining that state of mind known as a burning desire to win, essential to success.

Verse Twelve: "Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is coming upon you to test you as though something strange were happening to you."

1. Once more Peter addresses these dear persecuted Christians as beloved even as he did in chapter 2 and verse 11.
2. Negatively, "do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal which is coming upon you to test you as though something strange were happening to you."
3. Peter has already pointed out in chapter one that in this we are to be rejoicing though now for a little while if it must be, if there is need for it, you have been distressed in the midst of various kind of testings, in order that the genuineness of your faith which is more precious than gold which is perishing, though it is being tested by fire, may be found for praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.
4. Isaiah the prophet says in Isaiah 43:2 "When thou passest through the waters I will be with thee and through the rivers they shall not overflow thee. When thou walkest through the fire thou shalt not be burned neither shall the flame kindle upon thee."
5. Barnhouse points out "in Venezuela there are great iron mines from which ore is shipped to the largest iron works in the world near Philadelphia. If a man were to try to get iron out of ore with a hammer, he could not do it, because iron is a chemical union. The ore must go in to a great furnace. As the temperature rises the iron within the ore turns to liquid and the pure metal runs out. This is exactly how God works in your life and mine. This is why we must be salted with fire. You and I cannot hammer sin out of our lives, rather we must recognize that God loves us and will salt us with fire until the slag is burned away and only pure metal remains. So if you and I desire to be delivered from sin, we must be willing to go into the flame, there is no other way."

Let not thy face grow dim dear God, nor sense of Thee depart
 Let not the memory of thy Word burn low within my heart
 Let not my spirit, Lord, grow numb through loneliness or fears
 Let not my heart to doubts succumb and keep my eyes from tears.
 Let not the distance come between as months and years increase
 Let not the darkness close me in, let me not lose Thy peace.
 Let not the pressure of the foe, crush out my love for Thee
 Let not the tiredness and the woe eclipse Thy victory.
 For Thy joy is my joy, and my hope Thy day
 And Thy kingdom gracious God, shall never pass away."
6. Let not thy face grow dim dear God, nor sense of Thee depart
 Let not the memory of thy Word burn low within my heart
 Let not my spirit, Lord, grow numb through loneliness or fears
 Let not my heart to doubts succumb and keep my eyes from tears.
 Let not the distance come between as months and years increase
 Let not the darkness close me in, let me not lose Thy peace.
 Let not the pressure of the foe, crush out my love for Thee
 Let not the tiredness and the woe eclipse Thy victory.
 For Thy joy is my joy, and my hope Thy day
 And Thy kingdom gracious God, shall never pass away."
7. Lang points out "if you had gone to Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego after their burning fiery furnace exploit and had expressed sympathy that they should ever have had to endure such an ordeal, what do you think they would have replied. They would have politely disclaimed all right to your sympathy and assured you that the trial by fire was the grandest experience of their lives, for it was there in the seven times heated furnace that they suddenly found Christ Himself walking with them amid the flames and transforming the burning fiery furnace into a dew-kissed garden of Eden. Have no fear about the future, Christian believer, He careth for you. He has pledged Himself to you in advance, cast all your care upon Him. This is the message which comes to you from Peter's final section about the fiery trial.

I Thess
 of course
 you know such
 troubles are a
 part of God's plan
 for us.

God has the
 right to test
 His children.

1- Trust
 2- Test
 3- Triumph

TOPIC	REF #	TEXT
Suffering	600-12	<p>Our trials reveal the measure of our affection for this earth—both its good things and bad things. Our troubles expose our latent idolatry.</p> <p>For those who believe that God rules purposefully and wisely over all things, our response to loss is a signal of how much idolatry is in our souls. Do we really treasure what we have lost more than God and His wisdom? If we find ourselves excessively angry or resentful or bitter, it may well show that we love God less than what we lost. This is a very precious discovery, because it enables us to repent and seek to cherish Christ as we ought, rather than being deceived into thinking all is well.</p> <p>p. 114</p>

Suffering 600-13

Therefore, we may be so angry with Satan and with evil people (which is legitimate up to a point), that we fail to ask whether our anger reflects an excessive attachment to what we just lost. But if, contrary to Open Theism, we must reckon with the fact that God's wisdom is the ultimate reason we lost our earthly treasure, then we will be forced to do the very valuable act of testing our hearts to see if we loved something on earth more than the wisdom of God in taking it from us.

All of life is meant to reflect the infinite value of Christ (Philippians 1:20). We show His infinite worth by treasuring Him above all things and all persons. Believing in His all-ruling, all-wise sovereignty helps reveal our idolatries in times of pain and loss. Not believing that God has a wise purpose for every event helps conceal our idolatries.

pp. 114-115

TOPIC	REF #	TEXT
Trials	777-05	<p>Let us not be greatly discouraged at the many tribulations, difficulties, and disappointments which lie in the path that leads to glory, seeing our Lord has told us before, has made a suitable provision for every case we can meet with, and is himself always near to those that call upon him, a sure refuge and almighty strength, a never-failing, ever-present help in every time of trouble; seeing likewise that He himself was a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief for our sakes. He drank off the full cup of unmixed wrath for us; shall we then refuse to taste of the cup of affliction at his appointment, especially when his wisdom and love prepare it for us, and proportion every circumstance to our strength; when He put it into our hands, not in anger but in tender mercy, to do us good, to bring us near to himself; and when He sweetens every bitter draught with those comforts which none but He can give? Let us rather say, None of these things move us, neither do we count anything on this side eternity dear, so that we may finish our course with joy, and run with patience the race which is set before us.</p> <p>The time is short, the world is passing away, all its cares and all its vanities will soon be at an end. Yet a little while, and “we shall see him as He is.” Every vail shall be taken away, every seeming frown be removed from his face, and every tear wiped away from ours.</p> <p>pp. 49-50</p>

TOPIC	REF #	TEXT
-------	-------	------

Suffering

697-28

A perspective like this doesn't happen without suffering. It is affliction that fuels the furnace of heaven-hearted hope. People whose lives are unscathed by affliction have a less energetic hope. Oh, they are glad to know they are going to heaven; for them, accepting Jesus was a buy-and-sell agreement—place your sins on the counter and get an asbestos-lined soul. Once that's taken care of, they feel they can get back to life as usual—dating and marrying, working and vacationing, spending and saving.

But suffering obliterates such preoccupation with earthly things. Suffering wakes us up from our spiritual slumber and turns our hearts toward the future, like a mother turning the face of her child, insisting, "Look this way!" Once heaven has our attention, earth's pleasures begin to pale in comparison.

What has suffering taken away from you? What has it diminished or robbed? Don't allow your heart to dwell on earthly disappointments. God permits suffering to draw our attention on heaven where that which was lost—and more—shall be restored. Suffering forces us to look forward to the day when God will close the curtain on *all* disease, death, sorrow, and pain. Until then, we have work to do! John 9:4 says, "As long as it is day, we must do the work of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work."

Lord of heaven, turn my heart toward you this day. I set my mind right now on things above.
(May 5)

Verse Thirteen: "But inasmuch as you are sharing the sufferings of Christ, be rejoicing in order that also at the revelation of His glory, you might shout for joy."

- Suffering now is getting you ready for the revelation of His glory?*
1. Whereas in the twelfth verse we get the negative statement "not to be surprised at the fiery ordeal," in verse thirteen we get the positive statement beginning with the contrasting word but "inasmuch as you are sharing the sufferings of Christ, be rejoicing." And the purpose being that also at the revelation of his glory, you might shout for joy. We have learned a great deal through the epistle about Christian suffering and here Peter says that we are sharing the sufferings of Christ and we endure the fiery ordeal that comes upon us. Jeremiah the prophet in Jeremiah 48:11 "Moab has been at ease from his youth and he has settled on his lees and has not been emptied from vessel to vessel. neither hath he gone into captivity. Therefore his taste remained in him and his scent has not changed."

3. What is being said here is that the land of Moab has relaxed and been at ease and has not been shaken up so all the good things have settled to the bottom and his taste remained in him and his scent has not changed. Lots of bottles have the words on them, shake well before using and I believe this is God's procedure with us. He keeps us stirred up just enough so that he can make effective use of us in every situation.

4. It is so good for us to remember too that the purpose in these sufferings is seen in the last phrase of the 13th verse "in order that also at the revelation of His glory you might shout for joy." *Praise the Lord!! Hallelujah! Amen!*

Verse Fourteen: "If you are being reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed because the spirit of glory and the Spirit of God is resting upon you." *Stephen: Acts 6:15 "And fixing their gaze on him, all who were sitting in the council saw his face like the face of an angel."*

1. The reason that Peter here says you are blessed if you are being reviled for the name of Christ is because the spirit of glory and the spirit of God is resting upon you.
2. It would seem from this statement by Peter that he is remembering the experience at Pentecost and the coming of the Holy Spirit in Acts 2:2,3, and "suddenly there came a sound from heaven like a rushing mighty wind and it filled all the house where they were sitting and there appeared unto them cloven tongues as of fire and it sat upon each of them."

Verse Fifteen: "For let not one of you be suffering as a murderer or a thief or a wrong-doer or as a meddler in other men's matters."

1. Peter is saying that it's a great experience to be sharing the sufferings of Christ but it sure is not a very joyful experience to be suffering when you deserve it, as a murderer or a thief or a wrong-doer or as a meddler in other men's matters. The suffering that is involved here is deserved and is a very sad experience.

Verse Sixteen: "But if one is suffering as a Christian, let him not be ashamed but let him be glorifying God in this name."

1. This is the key verse to Pattern Number Ten - Keep a Good Attitude. If you are suffering as a Christian, do not be ashamed by it, but be glorifying God in this name.
2. This was the experience of Peter in Acts chapter 5 "and to him they agreed and when they had called the apostles and beaten them, they commanded them that they should not speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. And they departed from the presence of the council rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name."
3. Romans 1:16 "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone who believeth to the Jew first and also to the Greek."
4. 2 Timothy 1:12 "for which cause I also suffer these things, nevertheless I am not ashamed for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him against that day."

Acts 16:16
 "be glorifying" allow - adequate - allowed it

5. Peter, Paul and the other apostles were those who were suffering joyfully as Christians, not ashamed but glorifying God.
6. Can we face the challenge of following this pattern that Peter has outlined for us to practice? Keeping a good attitude, no matter what happens in the face of discouragement, difficulty, defeat, dismay and despair. Remember what Peter says to these suffering saints. If one is suffering as a Christian, let him not be ashamed but let him be glorifying God in this name.
7. Luck points out "in contrast with suffering for mis-deeds, there is another type which is altogether different, to suffer as a Christian. This means to suffer when we have done nothing amiss but have simply made a faithful stand for Christ. In such a case we should not be ashamed but rather glorify God. Peter himself had once been ashamed to suffer as a Christian and had sadly denied his Lord. The lesson had been well learned and according to strong testimony from early church writers he eventually did not hesitate to suffer even death itself and that by crucifixion as he courageously witnessed for Christ.

Verse Seventeen: "For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God. If it begins with us first, what shall be the end of those who are not obeying the gospel of God."

1. Peter here gives the reason why we do not have to be ashamed of suffering as a Christian, because the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God.
2. Peter mentioned previously in chapter 4:5 that judgment was going to be coming, "who shall give account to the one who is ready to judge the living and the dead."
3. Peter of course means, by the house of God, the spiritual house which he mentioned back in 2:5 of which we are living stones and Christ is the chief Cornerstone.
4. The judgment that he is referring to here is the judgment seat of Christ recorded in 2 Corinthians 5:10 "for we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ that everyone may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad."
5. He also makes reference to this judgment in 1 Corinthians 3:12 and following "now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay and stubble, each man's work will become manifest for the day will disclose it because it will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done. If the work which any man has built on, the foundation survives, he will receive a reward. If any man's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, but he himself will be saved, but only as through fire."
6. And then Peter raises the question, if it begins with us first, what shall be the end of those who are not obeying the gospel of God?
7. The answer to this question is found in Revelation 20:11-15 "and then I saw a great white throne, and one seated upon it, from whose presence both earth and sky fled and vanished. And I saw the dead great and small standing before the throne and the books were opened and another book was opened which is the book of life and the dead were judged by what was written in the books concerning what they had done. The Sea gave up its dead and death and the grave gave up the dead which were in them and men were judged each according to what he had done. Then death and the grave were themselves hurled in to the lake of fire which is the second death. If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown in to the lake of fire."
8. Ferrin points out "an old preacher who had the courage of a true prophet of God cried aloud to his people with an anguish of soul born of a love for man, turn or burn, turn or burn, whether men will believe it or not. There will come a day of wrath when God's infinite holiness will burn against sin. Where will you be in that day? Will you be under the sheltering cover of the cross of calvary or standing naked in the blazing light of eternal purity, condemned to everlasting darkness, turn ye, turn ye, why will ye die?"

1 Cor. 11:
Ps 139:

Lessons :

- ① A Tough Mental Attitude comes through endurance.
- ② God is at work in our suffering.
- ③ Suffering now is getting you ready for the revelation of His Glory
- ④ We Are to glorify God in the midst of our suffering
- ⑤ we Are to trust God And Keep serving in the midst of our suffering!

(Heb 12:)

Verse Eighteen: "And if he who is righteous is with difficulty being saved, where will the ungodly and sinner appear?" *Selfish person that wants to be comfortable!*

1. Peter once again is making a contrast between the righteous and the ungodly. If the righteous is being saved while going through difficulty and testing, where will the ungodly and sinner appear? The answer of course is the same answer given to the question in the previous verse. What shall be the end of those who are not obeying, the gospel of God.

Verse Nineteen: Therefore, also let those who are suffering according to the will of God, be entrusting their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good."

1. Peter in this particular section of the epistle has asked us not to be surprised at the fiery ordeal because we are sharing the sufferings of Christ. And if we are suffering as a Christian, let us not be ashamed, but let those who are suffering according to the will of God be doing two things, one, in trusting their souls to a faithful Creator, two, while doing good.

2. This reminds us of Pattern Number One, - Don't Get Shook, God Has the Controls.

CONCLUSION: We have studied in this particular passage, Pattern Number Ten, Keep A Good Attitude. The key verse has been verse 16 "If one is suffering as a Christian let him not be ashamed but let him be glorifying God in this name."

Remember Pattern Number Ten, Keep A Good Attitude, because Paul says in Romans 8:28 "Moreover we know that to those who love God, who are called according to His plan, everything that happens fits in to a pattern for good!" How can we help but keep a good attitude with a promise like that.

Psalm 42:5 why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted in me? hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise Him for the help of His countenance.

Psalm 42:11 Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted within me? hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise Him, who is the health of my countenance and my God.

Talk to yourself

Romans 8:18 "yet what we suffer now is nothing compared to the glory he will give us later."

- ① Don't Get Shock
- ② Get tough + start Growing
- ③ You Are part of estab.
- ④ Submit to Authority
- ⑤ Follow the coach
- ⑥ When one plus one equals one.
- ⑦ Life can be beautiful
- ⑧ The Right Game plan
- ⑨ What you plant is what you pick
- ⑩ Keep a Good Attitude

Thursday, July 16th Chambers was
so good!

THE CONCEPT OF DIVINE CONTROL

“... how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!” (Matthew 7:11).

Jesus is laying down the rules of conduct in this passage for those people who have His Spirit. He urges us to keep our minds filled with the concept of God's control over everything, which means that a disciple must maintain an attitude of perfect trust and an eagerness to ask and to seek.

Fill your mind with the thought that God is there. And once your mind is truly filled with that thought, when you experience difficulties it will be as easy as breathing for you to remember, “My heavenly Father knows all about this!” This will be no effort at all, but will be a natural thing for you when difficulties and uncertainties arise. Before you formed this concept of divine control so powerfully in your mind, you used to go from person to person seeking help, but now you go to God about it. Jesus is laying down the rules of conduct for those people who have His Spirit, and it works on the following principle: God is my Father, He loves me, and I will never think of anything that He will forget, so why should I worry?

Jesus said there are times when God cannot lift the darkness from you, but you should trust Him. At times God will appear like an unkind friend, but He is not; He will appear like an unnatural father, but He is not; He will appear like an unjust judge, but He is not. Keep the thought that the mind of God is behind all things strong and growing. Not even the smallest detail of life happens unless God's will is behind it. Therefore, you can rest in perfect confidence in Him. Prayer is not only asking, but is an attitude of the mind which produces the atmosphere in which asking is perfectly natural. “Ask, and it will be given to you . . .” (7:7).

TOPIC	REF #	TEXT
Death	773-07	<p>I anointed Yolanda with oil and prayed with her. As I turned around to put the top back on the bottle of oil, the room was filled with a brilliant light. It had been raining when I came in; I didn't even look up, but said, "Thanks, Abba for the sunshine. I bet that'll cheer her up."</p> <p>As I turned to look back at Yolanda—and if I live to be three hundred years old I'll never be able to find the words to describe what I saw—her face was like a sunburst over the mountains, like one thousand sunbeams streaming out of her face literally so brilliant I had to shield my eyes.</p> <p>I said, "Yolanda, you appear to be very happy."</p> <p>With her slight Mexican-American accent she said, "Oh Father, I am so happy."</p> <p>I then asked her, "Will you tell me why you're so happy?"</p> <p>She said, "Yes, the Abba of Jesus just told me that He would take me home today."</p> <p>I vividly remember the hot tears that began rolling down my cheeks. After a lengthy pause, I asked just what the Abba of Jesus said.</p> <p>Yoland said:</p> <p>COME NOW, MY LOVE. MY LOVELY ONE, COME.</p> <p>FOR YOU, THE WINTER HAS PASSED, THE SNOWS ARE OVER AND GONE, THE FLOWERS APPEAR IN THE LAND, THE SEASON OF JOYFUL SONGS HAS COME. THE COOING OF THE TUTTLE DOVE IS HEARD IN OUR LAND.</p> <p>COME NOW, MY LOVE. MY YOLANDA, COME.</p> <p>LET ME SEE YOUR FACE. AND LET ME HEAR YOUR VOICE, FOR YOUR VOICE IS SWEET AND YOUR FACE IS BEAUTIFUL.</p> <p>COME NOW, MY LOVE, MY LOVELY ONE, COME.</p> <p>Six hours later her little leprous body was swept up into the furious love of her Abba. Later that same day, I learned from the staff that Yolanda was illiterate. She had never read the Bible, or any book for that matter, in her entire live. I surely had never repeated those words to her in any of my visits. I was, as they say, a man undone.</p> <p>pp. 54-56</p>

S.O.S.
2:10-13