

“Yet once more, signified the removing of those things that are shaken, as of things that are made that those things which cannot be shaken may remain. Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved...”(Heb. 13:27-28)

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Sylvia D. Pearce

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PO Box 43268

Louisville, KY. 40253

502-245-4581 or 502-417-2110

sylviap@theliberatingsecret.org

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That Which Besets You!

Sylvia Pearce

How can that which besets us end up being that which also is our very glory? How is it that outer suffering, makes us know completeness inwardly? Mrs. Charles E. Cowman, wrote in her book, "Streams in the Desert," "Life's Disappointments are veiled Love's Appointments." The Apostle James says that we are to count all trials and temptations as **joy** because they will cause us to know a Christ centered wholeness, and completeness. And how is it the Apostle Paul tells us in his victorious cry of Roman 8 that, "In all these things we are more than conquerors"? Are these just grand platitudes to ponder, or is the Holy Spirit calling us Christians to know a completely supplied **no-need** life? David said it in the 23rd Psalm, "The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not **want**." How can this kind of completely satisfied and victorious LIFE be real to us today?

What we need to understand, and remarkably few do, is that we humans are a lost, fallen race of beings, indwelt by a Satanic spirit before we are born-again of God's Spirit. Ephesians 2:2 describes our lost condition by saying, "we walked **according** to the course of this world, **according** to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now works **in** the children of disobedience." Since this is who we were, and not who we are now as Christians, then why do so many Christians today still walk according to the

course of this world? And why are so many still under the power of the flesh and the devil?

Let us look first at what it means to “walk according to the course of this world.” The consequence of man’s lost union with God has produced a separate satanic **fear**-based reality in him. This reality came into being when rebellious man ate the fruit of the wrong tree. The lost world still eats, as it were, from the knowledge of good and evil which is the fruit of the fallen mindset of satanic thought.

How does the lost world think? Their *good* is what gives them self-satisfaction, and their *evil* is anything or anyone that keeps them from self-fulfillment. They are their own frame of reference. Primarily **their** lost union with God has produced a needy separated self, hungry to be fulfilled, without any Godly wisdom to discern what is really good and what is really evil.

Why **fear** based? It is **fear** based because we can never really grasp the lying promises of our imagined false securities, nor have enough accolades from our fleeting self-achievements. Therefore, inner securities and self-achievements always seem to elude us. “LACK” is our middle name. No thing or no one is ever enough. It usually goes like this: Fear is the basis...lack or need is the experience... then control is the method to keep life working for us...and then wrath or anger follows because control

doesn't work in our favor...which brings us right back again to fear. So the vicious *fear, lack, control, anger*—tormenting wheel, keeps on turning around and around producing frustrations and finally despair. Yet to the lost, it seems like this is all there is to normal life.

While lost in blindness we selfishly desire only what will make us feel powerful, secure, and self-satisfied. We aimlessly long for fleshly comfort, and blindly fulfill all manner of lust and self-interest designed to keep us from pain and suffering. Do we realize that we are on the road to self-imposed destruction? Do we realize that drawing strength from our own fleshly sufficiency's is the sin of all sins? I don't think so. Do we realize that we are not living according to our own desires, but instead we are living **according** to the thoughts and desires of another mind, and a satanic mind at that? I say again, I don't think so. How then can God shake us from this blind nightmare, and wake us up into the reality of the light of His dear Son, Jesus? It is a tall order, but God is up to it. Are we?

Our thinking since birth has been blinded by a satanic mind (II Cor. 4:4; Col. 1:2). We might ask, "How does Satan think?" According to Isa. 14:12-14, Satan, the created form thinks that he is greater, higher, wiser, more powerful, as well as wholly independent from God, his Creator. Little does he know that he is the most self-deceived being in the whole universe. No

created form can be greater or independent from the Creator-God. God is the sum total of all that there is. There can be nothing outside of God. God is the only independent being in the whole universe. All created beings are derivative and wholly dependent on Him for their very existence. Yet Satan thinks that he is independent like God. But no, that is the essence of his deception. Anyway, it is impossible for the creation to be independent, for God is the only independent person in the whole universe.¹

The Acts 17:28 account declares that, "In Him we live and move and have our being." If you read the context, you will see that Paul is agreeing with one of their poets while preaching to the *unsaved* at Mars Hill in Athens, Greece...Look at what it says, **in Him we all live and move and have our being...**Everything in God? All lost, all saved, all good and all evil? Hum... Yet there it is, right in scripture. How can that be? It certainly doesn't mean that everyone is already saved as some would say. Paul proved that by preaching the gospel to them, but regrettably many Athenians scoffed at the gospel and refused to believe and accept Christ. As you can see, only a few were saved that day.

So then, since nothing can be separate from God Almighty, then all comes to us from the **all seeing sovereign hand of God**. Do I

¹ Of course this does not mean that God is not a trinity, "The Father is: The Eternal Thought, the Son, The Eternal Spoken Word, and the Holy Spirit, The Eternal Action, or Worker...The One who adds substance to the Word!". One, yet three in One.

mean **all**? Yes all! He means all good as well as all evil; all pleasant, as well as all unpleasant; all riches, as well as all poverty; all healing as well as all sickness.

Most would say, "Wait a minute; people would have to be crazy to believe that!!" "Do you think that you will convince anyone that all good-will as well as all misfortune comes from the "Father filtered" hand of the God of Love? *No way!*" **Yes, way!**

Look at the scriptures again; Isaiah 45:6-7 says it. "That they may know from the rising of the sun, and from the west that there **is none beside me**. I am the Lord, and there **is none else**. I form the light, and create darkness; I make peace, and **create evil**. I the Lord do all these things." And again, "Look to me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth; for I am God, and there is none else" (Isa. 45:21).² From these scriptures, there is only one independent person and one almighty power (John 19:10-11) in the whole universe, and that is God, Himself.

Again, most would say, "Wow, then does God do the evil?" God doesn't do the evil. That is impossible. He is the "only good" in the universe (Luke 18:19). Therefore, He can only do good as James 1:13 says. The devil is the doer of evil, not God. However, the scripture says that, "God created evil." Yet in what sense did

² Read these two booklets "God Means Evil for Good," as well as "God Only" you will find all the scripture proof and clear explanations on the subject. They are found in the "Reading Room" under Sylvia Pearce' name on www.the-liberating-secret.org .

He create evil? God created freedom with the possibility of His creatures going the evil way of unbelief, so in an *indirect sense*, He created evil by creating us free beings. Since God is God then He can and does **use** the devil's evil for His highest eternal purposes, yet still reigns sovereign over His creation—(Daniel 2:19-22; 4:32):

“Then, please explain.” First, let me tell you what I am **not** saying. I am **not** saying that sickness, poverty, and death are not all the consequence and product of sin and the subsequence fall of man, because of course they are. I am **not** saying that our Father is cruel and sadistic and loves to see us all suffer. **Neither** am I saying that we don't deserve to suffer which is often times a product of our own sin and unbelief. What I am saying though, is that suffering is wholly **used** by God and is His merciful megaphone to wake a sleeping people who would never hear from the Holy Spirit except by going **through**, and *not being delivered from*, the terror of “the valley of the shadow of death.”

Maybe you can hardly believe that suffering, besetting sins and temptations are used by God³—Perhaps all you have heard is that God only wants you to be outwardly prosperous, and will keep you from all evil. Many of us know the Lord's prayer which says, “deliver us from evil.” However, I think that most of us don't even know what the ultimate evil is. Isn't the primary evil of all

³ I am not saying that sins are therefore justified, just because they are used by God.

evils, "unbelief," which is really calling God a liar? Isn't it our refusal to believe the provision offered freely to us by Christ that ultimately sentences us to eternal death and Hell? Wasn't it unbelief that caused the Children of Israel not to enter the Promised Land? Wasn't it the Pharisees self-righteous unbelief that caused Jesus to declare, "You are of your father, the devil, and the lust of your father you do" (John 8:44)? Yes, it is the refusal of God's creation to believe Him, and have faith in Christ's provisions freely offered by His grace that keeps us lost. Although, if we are a Christian, it is also unbelief that keeps us defeated in carnality.

God's love and mercy is so powerful and so full of Wisdom that it must ordain suffering and pain to shake us from what would keep us in our own hellish "unbelief." But you might say, "maybe pain would make people grow harder in unbelief." Maybe so, but God took a risk by creating us free beings, you know. Although, I think it is hypocrisy and dishonesty that damns us, because like Jesus said, "This is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For everyone that does evil hates the light neither comes to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved."(John 3:20).

"When a man who is honestly mistaken
hears the truth, he will either quit being
mistaken or cease to be honest."
(Author unknown).

My husband Scott once said that at one point he wondered why the Lord didn't build a force field around him so that Satan couldn't tempt him anymore. His answer came as the Lord said to him, "Oh, Scotty, if I did that, you wouldn't need me, would you?" Scott got the point. Daily suffering from temptation causes us to daily trust Him. Jesus, Himself was "made the captain and champion of our salvation '*perfect*' through suffering" (Heb. 2:10). Why do we think that we will not have to learn the same way that Jesus learned (Heb.5:8)? He suffered being human and was subject to temptations so that He could identify with every man..."He that sanctifies and they who are sanctified are all one; for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren" (Heb. 2:11).

What About Outer Prosperity?

Let me say that anyone can be victorious when everything is going their way with nothing challenging them. Our good friends, Wade and Harriet Wearren, lost their 17 year old son some years ago in a tragic car accident. At his funeral, Dan Stone, their minister, comforted them by saying, "Anyone can be at peace and victorious when everything is going well, but it takes a great family of faith like the Wearrens to be in perfect trust during this devastating time." This was a true demonstration of great faith and certainly a tremendous witness to us all. Until we Christians can get true maturity in understanding God's ways, how can outer

prosperity help us? When our true need is to get the same kind of inner release the Wearrens got while experiencing this great family loss.

There is a verse in the small epistle of III John 1:2 that some Christians use to try to prove the *healthy, wealthy, and wise* approach to Christianity--better known as the "prosperity message". John says this: "Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth" I believe that the verse in 3rd John is meant to be nothing more than a personal well-wish greeting to Gaius, who may have been in ill-health. Anyway, the real way that our soul prospers is when the Holy Spirit expresses His prosperous fruit through us even when our outer situations are not so prosperous. I believe John took that for granted when addressing, his friend, Gaius.

Why would James 1:2-4 tell us to "count it all **joy** when we fall into diverse temptations and trials," if trials were not valuable to God, and maybe more valuable for our Spiritual advancement? The outer prosperity message does not measure up with what Jesus taught, nor does it measure up to what the other New Testament writers taught.

Most of the New Testament contradicts what is taught today about outer prosperity. Jesus said, that "in this world you shall

have tribulation, but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world" (John 18:33). Jesus warned the disciples that they would be killed, hated and defamed (John 14-16). Paul said in Romans 8: 17-18 that if you are to mature into son-ship, you **would** have to suffer with him. Then God promised that any suffering that we have to endure is "not worthy to be compared to the glory that shall be revealed in us." In Paul's epistle to Timothy he actually sited suffering as the prerequisite to reigning with Christ (II Tim. 2:12). Paul also told us that he himself filled up that which **was**, left behind of the afflictions of Christ, in his flesh, for Christ body's sake (Col. 1:24). He also said that he was in great conflict while he was in Laodicea, and he said that it was his privilege to suffer for the church.

II Corinthians is the model epistle for Christian suffering. Paul reluctantly validated his apostleship, not by his great victories, but instead by what he greatly suffered. He said that he was pressed out of measure insomuch that he despaired even of life, for he had the sentence of death in himself so he would not trust in himself (1:8-9); He had much affliction and anguish of heart with many tears (2:4); He was troubled on every side, persecuted, and cast down. Always bearing about in his body the dying of the Lord Jesus, for he was always being delivered unto death for Jesus sake (4:10-11).

Paul's credentials as a "minister of God" were "by much affliction, in necessities, in distresses, in stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labors, in fasting, by dishonor, by evil report, as deceivers, as unknown, as dying, as chastened, as sorrowful, as poor, and having nothing" (6:4-10). He was whipped with piercing lashes on five different occasions with 39 stripes; He was beaten with a rod three times; He was once stoned and left for dead; He suffered shipwreck; he was oftentimes in perils from the Jews, from the heathen; He was in perils in cities, in the wilderness, at sea, and by false brethren. Paul was in weariness, painfulness, hunger, thirst, suffered being cold, and even naked at times (11:24-27). But even more than that, he inwardly suffered with fatherly concern for the fledgling churches, who were being invaded by false teachers perverting God's grace with false doctrines of legalism.

Even though Paul suffered outwardly, inwardly he declared that he was "more than a conqueror through Him who strengthen him." This doesn't sound like the outer prosperity message to me. True Spiritual prosperity is "inner prosperity". It has no regard as to how our outer conditions find us, either in good health, and wealth or in bad health and wealth.

I think we need to ask ourselves, what are God's blessings, and what does it really mean to have favor with God? Is, "blessings, and favor" defined by the materialistic good fortune that we

have? Jesus didn't think so. He reminds us of what blessings really are when he said, "Blessed are the poor in spirit...blessed are they that mourn...blessed are the meek...blessed are they that hunger and thirst after righteousness...blessed are the merciful...blessed are the pure in heart...blessed are the peacemakers...blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness sake...blessed are you when men shall revile you and persecute you and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake...Rejoice and be exceeding glad for great is your reward in heaven (Matt. 5:3-12). These are blessings? Perhaps, we have it all backwards.

Do you see the pattern for suffering that the early church laid down for us? If you don't see it in the New Testament then you probably haven't read the book of "Acts." Suffering has always been a part of the normal life of God's saints. The Old Testament Prophets suffered...the Patriarchs suffered... Remember Jacob is "favored" by God over Esau (Rom. 9:13). Read Jacob's story and see what being "favored" really means to God (Genesis 25--36)-... Jesus suffered... Paul suffered...and the early Apostles all suffered. Why do you think that we Christians are so special and privileged today that we don't have to suffer? On the contrary, we wouldn't be God's special family if we never suffered, because it is certainly a privilege to suffer for His name sake (Heb. 12:8).

So, be like Jesus who was “a man of sorrow, acquainted with grief,” and know that it is a part of God’s redeeming plan. Anyway, all suffering is redeemed as God uses it all for His glory as well as for our faith maturity and advancement in the Kingdom. Paul’s original commission and calling after his conversion in Acts 9:15-16 says, “He is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel; For I will show him how **great things he must suffer for my name’s sake.**” Are you beginning to see that we are all on the wrong foot by seeing “favored with God” so named by our material goods, financial statements, and big ministries? No, it is not true at all.

Yes, we Americans are blessed outwardly, but outer blessings are never meant to be our measuring stick for success. Jesus warned, “Seek ye **first** the Kingdom of God and His righteousness” and then all these things will be added to you. What things? I believe Jesus was just talking about daily needs for survival. Food, clothes to wear, and words to say to our accusers. What most are advocating today is outer prosperity **first**, and then *maybe* talk about the kingdom of God, and **our righteousness**, not **His** righteousness. If the prosperity message is the first and primary interest of a ministry, then the love of money and material things are also first, which puts Christ second. Big mistake! I believe we Christians have “lost our first love.”

I guess you think that I am totally against nice things, nice houses, furniture etc. No, I am not, Matter of fact, I have nice things, as do most Americans. However if material things are loved before God Himself, then we are loving the material things of this world instead of God. "Love not the world, neither the **things** that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him" (I John 2:15).

God Removes What Can Be Shaken!

(Heb. 13:27)

Are you being shaken? Are you wondering why life is so hard? Even though you are a Christian, are you still beset with fear, control issues, anger, lust, unsuccessful self-improvement and self-hatred? You might ask, "How in the world then, can your besetting sins and temptations be the God-disguised road to glory?"

Our biggest and most insidious problem as redeemed children of God is our un-discovered new mind. I always say that we have the heart of Jesus, but we still think like the devil. We know that the bible tells us that "*as a man thinketh, so is he*". So, being renewed and transformed in the Spirit of your new mind in Christ is the one, all important, lesson to learn. God wants to make "believers" out of His Christian "Believers."

God will shake everything in your life that tries to usurp Him from being your "all and all".

We all need a shake down...

Lord God, shake down all pride in religious self importance...shake down the delusion of self-improvement...shake down the lie of independent-self activity based on self-sufficiency...shake down all prideful satanic thoughts of outer success based on names, money and numbers. Shake down all false identities however great or humble they may appear. Shake down all and whatever takes Your place. Forgive our deceived minds, and cause us to know Your mind.

Replace all that You shake down with the peace of Your mind, Your thinking, Your wisdom, Your love, Your joy, Your gentleness, Your self-control, Your identity, Your faith, and Your abundant life. Make us humble children wholly dependent on You alone.

Amen

God means our hard times, He means our failures, He means them because he uses them to shake us from the false belief that we have in ourselves, and re-acquaints us with your union with Christ, Himself. Who is "LIFE", Itself.

We Need A "Mind" Transplant

The Corinthian Church fancied themselves to be spiritual. However, Paul called them "yet carnal." Their carnality was rooted in the fact that they were Christians who knew the Holy Spirit's power, but did not know the "Wisdom of God," which is the "Mind of Christ." How can we know God's mind? I think we

are so use to trusting in our own intellectual understanding, or own reasoning powers that we don't even realize that we are still thinking from the "mind of the flesh." Romans 8:5 says that the "mind of the flesh is death," while "the mind of the Spirit is peace and life." Paul was broken when he went through his Romans 7 experience. He could no longer trust his own understanding and reasoning power. Man masters through understanding. Think about it, mankind has mastered the sub-atomic quantum level through his understanding of it. Through man's masterful understanding we today have high-tech digital everything.

However, the New Creation doesn't work by way of human understanding. The Bible says that the "natural man receives not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned" (I Cor. 2:14). The redeemed have received **all** of Christ when He came into us at our initial "Born Again" experience. He certainly didn't come into us and leave "His" mind behind, did He? However most Christians are like the Corinthians who still trust their own understanding and reasoning power more than they trust "the mind of Christ" in them.

As long as you trust yourself in anyway, you are operating from "the mind of the flesh." Romans 8:6-8 says that the natural mind of the flesh is enmity against God, and they that operate from the fleshly mind cannot please God.

When Jesus told his disciples that "If any man will come after me, he will have to **deny himself** and take up his Cross and follow Me, what was he talking about denying? Don't we all have to deny our own understanding and reasoning power to operate by faith? Abraham had to deny his own understanding and reasoning power when he took Isaac, his promised son and laid him on the altar to be sacrificed?

What did Jesus mean when he told His disciples that they had to become like little children in order to enter the Kingdom of God? Sometime ago, I went through a period of time laboring by faith with constant Satanic thoughts. According to II Cor. 10:5 I took "every thought captive to the obedience of Christ," as Paul instructed. However, as soon as I replaced one thought, ten took its place. After a while, I said to the Lord, "I'm losing my mind," The Lord said back to me, "Good! You have to lose your mind to find My mind." I got it!! Instead of replacing thoughts, I learned to replace minds. So, when the crazy thoughts come to me now, I simply say, "I have another mind that is at peace and doesn't even think like this." Thank the Lord it freed me.

Although, God certainly wants us to understand His ways, doesn't understanding come after faith, not before it? It is always in hind-sight that we truly understand God's ways. Therefore, we have to leave our own understanding and our own reasoning

power on the altar in order to truly mature in Spirit faith. Proverbs 3:5 simply says “lean **not** on your own understanding”

Soren Kierkegaard, the great Danish Philosopher said, “Faith is Against Understanding.” “Life can only be understood backwards; but it must be lived forwards.” Faith is on the other side of death. It is when all confidence in yourself or in human support, and also in God in an immediate way, is extinct, when every probability is extinct, then comes the life-giving Spirit and that brings faith. This faith is stronger than the whole world; it has the power of eternity; it is the Spirit’s gift from God, it is your victory over the world in which you are more than conqueror...”

For Self-Examination:

(Recommended to the Present Age 1851).

Proverbs 3:5-9 also tells us to, “Get Wisdom, get understanding; forget it not, neither decline from the words of my mouth. Forsake her not, and she shall preserve thee, love her, and she shall keep thee. Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom and with all thy getting get understanding. Exalt her, and she shall promote thee; she shall bring thee to honor when thou dost embrace her. She shall give to your head an ornament of grace a “**crown of glory**” shall she deliver to you.”

I loved what Paul said in II Cor. 11:2-3, “For I am jealous over you with Godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ. But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his

subtlety, so your **minds** should be corrupted from the **simplicity** that is in Christ." I believe that we need further Spiritual understanding on "The mind of the Spirit."

James gives us clarity. "Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? Let him show out of a good conversation his works with meekness of **wisdom**. But if you have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth. This **wisdom descends not from above**, but is earthly, sensual, devilish. For where envying and strife is there is confusion and every evil work. But the **wisdom that is from above** is first pure then peaceable gentle and easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy" (3:13-17).

Romans 8 tells us there are two minds the "mind of the flesh," and "the mind of the Spirit," Also, James says there are two "wisdoms," wisdom from below and the Wisdom of God from above. I Cor. says that "The Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after (worldly) wisdom. But we preach Christ crucified unto the Jews a stumbling block, and unto the Greeks foolishness; But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the Wisdom of God"(1:22-24) Only brokenness can serve us with this mighty revelational truth....Broken from trusting in our own lives, and broken from trusting in our own analytical-brain power. Wow, "Whosoever

shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child shall in no wise enter therein (Luke 18:17).

A good friend of mine actually had a mental break-down before he discovered the "Wisdom of God which is from above." Knowing Wisdom totally transformed him. Maybe, we need to take another look at what the word "repentance" really means. I have always heard that it means a "change of mind." Perhaps, it really means "exchange of minds,"... my mind, for His mind. WOW! Maybe I'm a genius after all.

Repentance--An Exchange of Minds

We know that Romans 12:2 says, "Be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind," that you may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God." So the only way to be transformed is to renew or replace minds. "How do I do that?"

You don't have a mind or life of your own, you never have. You just falsely thought you did. You have always been a slave to either the "spirit of error," or the "Spirit of truth." You have never been, you, just being you. We humans are vessels, branches, temples, bodies and nothing more. You were a vessel with a satanic spirit, and through the Cross you are now that same vessel but now you are indwelt with the divine Holy Spirit. So now

you see, as a Christian you are now indwelt with the new mind of Christ. Jesus is your life and your “new mind.”

Are you wondering? “How do I activate this new mind?” You simply receive it by faith. “You mean, that is all?” Yes, believe just like you have always received whatever God has promised you. “WOW! All I have to do is believe it and say I have Christ’s mind?” Yes, that is all. The mind of the Spirit will catch you up in your understanding of it all.

My good friend Fran Giles once asked our mutual mentor, Norman Grubb, “How can I trust my thoughts?” Norman said, “Risk it!”—“But Norman,” she went on to say, “I have some really raunchy thoughts.” Again he said, “Trust your thoughts”. Later that day she said to the Lord, “How can I trust my thoughts?” He said to her, “Address all your thoughts to Me, if they are from Satan, he has to leave in My Name, if they are yours’, “I will perfect that which concerns you”, and all the rest are from ‘ME’”.

Walk Through the Valley

It is through what besets us, or what we are most fearful of, that we can know that God is not only faithfully with us, but is keeping us right in the middle of it all. “Yea, though I walk **through** the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for thou are (in union) with me.”

Life is unpredictable, and uncertain, but God is forever faithful even in the most painful of life's situations. The Theologians tell us that God is "Omni-Present." That means that He is present at all times and in every place. The Psalmist tells us that even "if we make our bed in hell, behold thou are there" (Psalms 139:8). You might ask, "Why doesn't He deliver us **from** these painful situations"? He does, but not the way we always think He should. He doesn't save our soul from feeling the pain of loss and despair because we are burden-bearers for others. "Bear one another's burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ," which is the greater principal of love (Gal. 6:2). Yet God says that we can know Spirit peace and victory right in the midst of our tragedies and losses. II Cor. 2:14 says, "Thanks be unto God which always causes us to **triumph** in Christ, and makes manifest the savor of His knowledge by us in every place."

"If God delivered everyone from conflict, oppression, and opposition at the first call, where would be the opportunity for the perseverance that produces character? If tribulation were lifted at the first cry, where would be the chance for exercise in patience that issues in heavenly character, the chief ingredient of agape love?"

The question is: How are "these light afflictions which are but for a moment," but which seem unbearable and endless to us, to be transmuted into that 'far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory'? One's afflictions can be made to work for him only by a correct subjective attitude. To many it is a mystery how subjective attitude (the inner man) toward an objective (outside) situation can

so modify its effect that pure "evil" is transformed into a sublime dimension of "good."

---Paul E Billheimer (Don't Waste Your Sorrows)---

God may not deliver us **from** evil situations, but He will surely deliver us right **in** the midst of it. We really don't know what we need deliverance from. Our greatest need is to be delivered from the illusion of an independent-self, that is, the lies put into our minds through the fall. We need to be delivered from the lie and the delusion that we live a separate life apart from Christ's life. My good friend Clark Switzer said after seeing his house, with all his belonging, burn down, "I didn't lose things, I lost something much greater, I lost the false notion that I am an independent-self, but in losing, I really gained the knowledge that Christ is my life."

The sin of all sins for the Christian is trying to live life apart from Christ's resurrection LIFE, as if it is "just me living". The only way we can be delivered in daily living is to know what Paul says in Romans 5:10, "Much more than being reconciled, we shall be daily delivered from sin's dominion by His resurrection LIFE." (Amp) If you are trying to live your own life, you will suffer because your flesh is being misused by Satan (Rom. 7:17). As you trust Christ to live your life, you will be free from sin's dominion (Rom. 6:7).

I'm reminded of the Cherubims in the Garden of Eden with "flaming swords which turned every way to keep the way of the tree of Life" (Gen. 3:24). They had flaming swords turning every which way keeping sinful man from the presence of God's Shekinah Glory. Christ has opened the door to Eden's Lost Glory by His sacrificial death, resurrection and ascension. He embraced the flaming swords turning everyway and gained the victory for our release from Satan's tyranny. He in turn, crowned us with the Shekinah Glory that we lost in that same garden. For, "all have sinned and fallen short of the *glory* of God" (Rom. 3:23) and now Christ in you is that only hope of the glorious return of the Shekinah in you (Col. 1:27). So, like Christ, we must walk through the flaming swords that cut from us all that is not Christ. Because only Christ as us can enter again into Eden's gate, eat from the tree of Life and bask in the glory of the Shekinah.

What Besets You?

Let us look at what besets us. Does your husband or your wife beset you to jealousy or anger? Does a judgmental and condemning spirit beset you? Do your lustful thoughts beset you? Does your addictive behavior beset you? Does your health and bodily image beset you? Do your temptations of pride and self-assurance beset you? Do your friends misunderstanding of you beset you? Does the world's unfairness beset you? You name it, you know what personally besets you. Maybe only you know

how much it constantly nags at your mind, filling your thoughts with negativity. Can I shock you? All these besetting trials are used by God for your very glory.

Now, how can our besetting sins and temptations be the prelude to glory? They teach us total resignation to Christ alone. First, by the honesty of confessed sin, and secondly, by denying any self-justification. These first steps humble us and prove to us how helpless we really are apart from our union with Christ. Then, they teach us recognition that the devil is always tempting us by drawing us into constant condemning self-analyses which finally teach us and prove **to us** the fruitlessness of self-improvement. Then these struggles give us the knowledge of our own powerlessness to deliver ourselves from evil (Romans 7:23), as well as the powerlessness of keeping ourselves from sin (Jude 1:24). All these "fiery trials" "work for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory" (II Cor. 4:17), by branding our consciousness with a fire that trains us and **proves** our total hopelessness, total helplessness, and our total dependence on Christ, our God.

We must find out that we can only draw our life from **the** power-source and life of another, namely, Jesus, Mr. Eternal Life Himself. He is our Life. We no longer live, it is Christ that lives in and as us (Gal. 2:20). Here is the joy of a precious woman who has just discovered this truth.

"I know you all have been walking this walk a long time now.....but.....DON'T YOU JUST **MARVEL** AT YOUR NEW SELF?!! The Christ in you self, living His life in you, as you!!!!!! My oh, my oh, my!!!! I sit here and shake my head in awe! Oh, Jesus.....what a plan!!!! 🙏 OH GLORY!"

It is a lie to believe that our time on earth will be solely filled with thrills, prosperity, and self-satisfying-happiness. God always took the great men and women of the bible through periods of **darkness's**, with rigors of trials and tribulations before they could finally know Christ's fullness as them. If Paul hadn't faced both sides of the same coin, how could he have said in Phil. 4:11-13 'I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be **content**. I know how to be abased and I know how to abound, every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." Are you aware that he was in prison in Rome waiting to be beheaded by Nero when he wrote this Philippians' epistle?

Paul learned not to be **impressed** when his outer situation was favorable, or **depressed** when he faced trials. As Rudyard Kipling said in his famous poem "IF";

"....If you can dream, and not make dreams your master, If you can think, and not make thoughts your aim; If you can meet with **Triumph** and **Disaster** and treat those two impostors just the same....."

Paul was “a sacrifice of Praise” to the Lord, a “royal priest,” and “more than a conqueror,” and so are we all, as we trust the indwelling Christ to be our breath, our being and our very life.

The Road To Glory

Ok, you might agree that, “our besetting sins and temptations pave the way to the golden road of glory, but how does all this negativity in my life get turned around to God’s redemptive positive?” Good question! Let us look at some hidden principles laid out for us in the Old Testament...

Moses at the burning bush...The common bush was ablaze with fire, yet the bush was not consumed. Curious! Could it be that the bush actually represented Moses himself? He was being commissioned and anointed with the blazing fire and power of the Holy Spirit. God was going to use him, but not consume him.

But, how was he to confront his powerful enemy and release his brothers who were enslaved under Pharaoh’s captivity? The first thing that Moses had to learn was that “**the lame,**” not the strong “**take the prey**”. His stammering speech was never the point. It was like God to call the unlikely Moses who couldn’t speak well at all. (Weakness is always the prerequisite to God’s strength as it gives way to His miraculous power.) God mightily uses the weak vessels that He carefully chooses.

But then, how were the Children of Israel to know that it was God who sent Moses to deliver them? What was God's name, anyway? God told Moses "Say, I Am that I Am, sent you." Hum...The "Self-Existent Being" sent you, Moses. What could that mean? I believe that God was imparting to Moses His very own "Being"... Causing Moses to know that the Great "I AM" (Spirit) was in union with his little "I am" (human spirit). The marriage of two spirits became incarnate into one flesh.

The next problem was how would he operate, and by what power could he accomplish this commission? By this time Moses knew that there was no way he could offer any help of his own to accomplish this tremendous task. He had learned his lesson well. Powerless, Moses knew very well that he had to derive his strength from Someone other than himself. This was the perfect condition in which Moses' total insufficiency actually was necessary and thus empowered God's total sufficiency in him.

Moses humbly stood there with only his shepherd's staff in his hand. To a King, his scepter is the symbol of authority. But to mere weak Moses, his staff was just a stick. Or was it? The Voice commanded Moses' prompt obedience. "Moses, throw down your staff."

As Moses obeyed, the staff immediately was transformed into a venomous serpent. Again, the Voice spoke, "Now, pick up the

serpent **by its tail!**" What?!! If Moses obeyed what God was asking him to do, the snake could strike him with a poisonous and deadly bite from behind. It could mean death. Yes, it was highly risky, but Moses obeyed. As he reached for the serpent's tail, immediately his humble shepherd's staff was transformed into Moses'/God's mighty scepter of power and authority. The defeated serpent swallowed his own tail. Moses got the point.

Finally, Moses knew God's mysterious ways in which He uses the negative as the source of His power. Embracing what normally threatens us, defuses the power of the enemy and reigns victorious over the situation. Now Moses was ready to face his enemy and turn what possibly could be defeat into victory over Pharaoh/Satan's strong hold thereby freeing his enslaved brothers.

What can we learn from this curious but simple story? When we fear and fight what threatens us, Satan keeps us fearfully paralyzed. However, if we dare embrace the negative...walk into it instead of fleeing or fighting it, we gain the authority over it. I often say to Satan, "Come on, make my day." He flees immediately because he is really a coward and loves to hide in dark places. When I see that the threat is "only Satan," he's the one who fearfully flees. He has no legal rights to me. Christ living as me gains the victory which always denotes Satan's doom.

Another simple illustration is seen in a child's sling shot. The pull of the negative backward tension is totally necessary for the success of the positive thrust. The power of the positive is hidden in the tension of its negative counterpart. No negative...no successful positive. But, then how do we let go? Letting go of the negative tension is simple and manifest as we, "in all things give thanks" to Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith.

Another example is found in Numbers 21:5-9. The children of Israel were in the wilderness complaining against God for their hardships as well as His provision (manna) for their food. As a chastisement of their unbelief, He sent venomous serpents to bite them. They cried to Moses for help. God told Moses to put a brazen serpent on a pole. If the Israelites would dare look up at the serpent on the pole (The symbol of the Cross where Satan was defeated), then they would live. However, if they looked down at their fatal circumstances they would automatically die.

See how faith is always so simple? But so often it is missed just because of its child-like simplicity.

Suffering and Glory Join Together as One!

"Before the world, suffering is a reproach, but before Me it is an infinite honor. Suffering is an extinguisher of My wrath, and an obtainer of My favor. Suffering makes a man in My sight worthy of love, for the sufferer is like Me. Suffering is a hidden treasure which no one can make good. Suffering changes an earthly man into a heavenly man. Suffering brings with it the estrangement of the world, but confers, instead, My intimate familiarity. It lessens delight and increases grace. He who rightly knows how profitable suffering is ought to receive it as a gift worthy of God."

-----Heinrich Suso

"The suffering of this present time is not worthy to be compared with the glory that shall be revealed in us (Romans 8: 18). Therefore, suffering and glory are the opposite ends of the same reality. It is like a pencil with a sharp point on one end, and an eraser on the other. One pencil, yet two ends. The point represents the sharpness of painful situations, and the eraser represents the glory of how God erases our pain when He works it all for His as well as our good. Suffering/glory is one joined-together death/resurrection reality. One Cross, yet two opposites joined together as one. When we begin to see it that way then we can rejoice on the front end of our problems, knowing God is bringing glory out of it all.

To the enlightened, all temptations and trials of any kind are only **opportunities for faith** in what God will do and is doing. Everything in the whole universe operates by opposites. Nothing exists without it's opposite. A battery in your car doesn't work just from a positive charge. It has to have a negative charge as well. The atom is not just protons and neutrons, is it? No, all atoms have opposite whirling electrons as well. All of life operates that way. We human vessels also operate the same way. We are non-strength (weakness) to manifest His power; we are non-righteous to manifest His righteousness; we are non-love, to manifest His love; we feel confused, to manifest His clarity, etc. etc. So, our human negative experiences are only **His calling card** for the adventure of faith to see what God in His glorious creativity, is up to. It ends up being surprisingly fun if you can see it.

"Wait, O my soul and let patience have her perfect work, "nothingness" is the best condition for God's creatures; Emptiness, the necessary prerequisite to be filled with God's grace; Barrenness the fertile ground for God's power to be fruitful."

"The Cross turns all our temptations into new manifestations of His resurrection life; it takes all our pressures and crisis' and turns them into points of POWER for His glory to come into being. And it turns the depths of our sorrows into mountaintops of heavenly joy through the out flowing of Life out of us to others."

Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to indwell us, so that He could lay down His life over and over again, and raise it up over and over again as well. We have entered a realm that is a death/resurrection reality. It is the operation of the Cross in us. Every death situation has a hidden seed capable of resurrection life in it for others. That is why the Holy Spirit groans within us (Rom. 8:26) until the final swallowing up of death and the completed manifestation of the "One New Man" (multi-member glorified body of Christ) makes its appearance with Christ its Head, on the earth (Rom. 8:21). Wow, what a blessed hope!

Jesus said that we could not be His disciples unless we take up His Cross and follow Him? Did you ever think of your Cross as **His** Cross? Did you ever think of your problem as His problems, and not yours at all? Philippians 3:10 tells us that, "We might know Him and the power of **His** resurrection, and the fellowship of **His** suffering, being made conformable unto **His** death!!" **His** Cross, **His** resurrection, **His** suffering, and **His** death! Jesus is the final word, His ministry of reconciliation, His plan of full glorified redemption, His power, His wisdom, His very LIFE manifested on earth. The Kingdom from Heaven fully come on earth as it is in Heaven.

So then, what part do we the human vessels have? We are in union with Him and are **co-crucified** with Him (Gal. 2:20), and we also are **co-resurrected** with Him (Eph. 2:6; Romans 6:5),

therefore having **co-authority** (Luke 10:19) and **co-throne rights** (Heb. 4:16; Heb. 10:19-23) with him in our **co-ascension** with Him (Eph. 2:6). ; However, we are also **co-sufferers** with Him (Romans 8:17), and finally we are a **co-burden-bearer** with Him (Romans 8:26; II Cor. 4:10-11; Gal. 6:2). This is our part and privilege until the final swallowing up of death has come.

So then, it is not about us at all, it is about Jesus dying and rising as us gaining new Spiritual victories for *others*. He is the power to die and rise again in us. Jesus said, "No man takes my life from me, but I lay it down of myself; I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again" (John 10:18). He has come back to do just that in you and as you.

As my own mother was dying in pain, she said, "Sylvia, this is **not** happening to me, it is happening to **Jesus**." Her dying was Jesus dying, her pain was Jesus' pain? Her faith in Him lifted her inwardly to a glorious place. She died in praise, in peace, and in glory. This is where union with Christ has its final test, and my mother's faith won the victory. Her simple statement has forever changed my understanding and pressed me to new heights in the Spirit. She gained the intercessory price for all of her family member's initial salvation as well as their completion in Christ.

Are you suffering? Is it **just you** who is suffering? Yes, you, but not just you. You are Co-suffering with Christ as He lays down

His life for others. Just know "suffering works an exceeding weight of glory," and it cannot compare with the glory that will first be revealed in you as well as bring new LIFE in others.

"If God's gifts are our blessings, and the devil's assaults are also our blessings, what remains to harm or depress us? If good is good, and evil is equally good to the enlightened, then a realm of **LIFE** is entered where we "rejoice always," "in everything give thanks," and "in all things are more than conquerors"."

---Norman P, Grubb

So, what do you see? Can you now see that which besets you... I mean, every trial, every temptation, and every painful situation has a seed of hope hidden in its depths with the potential of great glory? It is like a precious treasure waiting to escape from its prison held only by your own unbelief keeping it from having its final glorious reveal. Release it to the Lord and discover the redemptive power of its hidden glory!