

the dredging, the channel will fill up, and render important navigation impossible. The even current may still flow on as before, and yet our lives may not contain more than sufficient of the Water of Life than will float a pleasure skiff now and then. Oh, yes, trial is really part of the plan, for unto us it is given in behalf of Christ, not only to believe on His name, but also to suffer for His sake.

Paul wished that he might know Him, and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings be made conformable unto His death, that if by any means he might attain unto the resurrection from the dead. It is really not necessary for us to sit down and try to figure out the exact origin of the trial, because if we leave it to human reason, and human investigation, we will very likely conclude that somebody along the line has blundered, and we are innocently suffering on that account, and had it not been for certain things that have gotten into operation, this trouble would never have reached us. We have nothing to do with that whatever, for dwelling in the secret place of the Most High, we are under the shadow of the Almighty, and such beautiful and reliable safeguards has the love of God thrown round us; it is impossible for one single trial to get past Him, and to us without His notice and permission, so that we can at all times, by loving God and walking uprightly, exclaim: "all things are working for my good," and pillowing our head upon this precious truth, we may calmly and sweetly rest.

Trials will very largely cease to terrify even the timid when they learn to count more on the grace and less on the trial. You see it is just a question of grace; where trial abounds grace can much more abound, for it is just as easy for God to give tons of grace as it is ounces, as there is just as much grace left unused in the one case as in the other.

We were trying to encourage a good brother and his good wife to hold on to God, and keep sweet during a time of great temptation. Our Brother replied, "I know what you advise is right and

best, but it takes an awful lot of grace to do it. We replied, "Yes, Brother, it does, but then, you know, there is an awful lot of grace to take. Don't spare the grace a bit; use all you want; you need not economize a farthing in this direction." He saw the point, and got grace enough to balance the account. His good wife, later along, made about the same remark; that it took a wonderful amount of grace. We said, "Sister, there are whole oceans of grace; help yourself—grace everywhere." You see we are all right as long as the grace lasts, for God has promised that it shall be sufficient to balance our difficulty every time. Thank God, we have enough Scripture about grace to render harmless any trial that may come. Sad, indeed, would be our plight had we nothing better to fall back upon than the Scripture of the old lady, who said that she had one passage that supported her under life's sorest trials. For instance, said she, "I am much troubled just now; just think, John won't work, but just galivants around the neighborhood doin' nothin'. Sall has run off with the hired man, and the pigs have got in and eat up all the garden truck. But, after all, I get great comfort from this passage: 'Grin and bear it.'" Now, while all this is amusing, is not that about as good support as many people will take to themselves in time of trial? But, surely, if we get one good look at the immensity of grace, we will cry out: "Most gladly, therefore, will I glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me."

We have read somewhere of pearls being made by a grain of sand getting into an oyster shell; the oyster, after trying in vain to expel the intruder, throws over it a soft substance, which gradually rounds off the sharp angles, and moulds it into an oval shape, so that it does not so pain the sensitive body. The grain of sand is there all the while, but it has been made endurable, and when the oyster yields up its life, you have a pearl. Now, if God sends or permits trials that refuse to leave us, does He not thus give us an opportunity to manufacture pearls?

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