

*"I will call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised: so shall I be saved from mine enemies." Psalms 18:3 KJV*



We often seek God's face in our trials. But how many times is our perceived enemy not our real enemy? We often view circumstances as the enemy. Lust breeds discontent which causes sin and thus incurs the consequence, death. *"When lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death."* Death is the absence of life. Jesus said, *"I am come that they might have life...more abundantly. I am the Way the Truth and the Life."* Paul affirms, *"Be not deceived; God is not mocked: Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap"* This divine law, often only applied to unbeliever, stands regardless whether one is believer or unbeliever. While the believer's eternity is secure in Christ, the body is sin's slave. We are *"carnal, sold under sin. For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing."* Unless our flesh is mortified (killed) by obedience to the *"mind of Christ,"* it will ruin us. *"For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live."* Your body is your mortal enemy! Obey its desires and you will be dragged into a downward spiral of death and eventually, for the unbeliever, an eternal one. Obedience reaps life and liberty *"for where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty,"* you choose. A drowning man is only saved if he clings to the life saver. God's Word is what saves our souls and mortifies the deadly lusts of the carnal flesh. Jesus is the *"Word made flesh."* His body is now manifested in the local Assembly. If you don't assemble, you're not a member. The only deliverance we have; is found in Christ, through Christ, by Christ, and with Christ. We can joy in trials suffered for the name of Jesus. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus said, *"Blessed are ye, 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: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you."* Only in trial can you really know Jesus. There you understand the agonies our Sovereign endured on your behalf!

If it weren't for rocks in the stream,  
Its peaceful song it could not sing,  
The trials of my earthly beam,  
Should to my lips God's praises bring! ~CGP

Paul wrote to the persecuted Church at Philippi, *"I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord That I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings."* We can never know agony endured by our Lord's bondage in mortal flesh, but, through trials, know more intimately His infinite love! God cherishes the intimacy of His own only the *"fellowship of His suffering"* can bring. Always cry to Jesus for deliverance *"for whosoever shall call upon the name of the LORD shall be saved. Draw nigh to God, and He will draw nigh to you."* Is God drawing closer to me? *"Delight thyself also in the Lord and He shall give thee the desires of thine heart."* The greater my desire to obey God's Word, the closer He is to me.

*"Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider Him that endured such contradiction of sinners against Himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds."* Hebrews 12:1-3 KJV