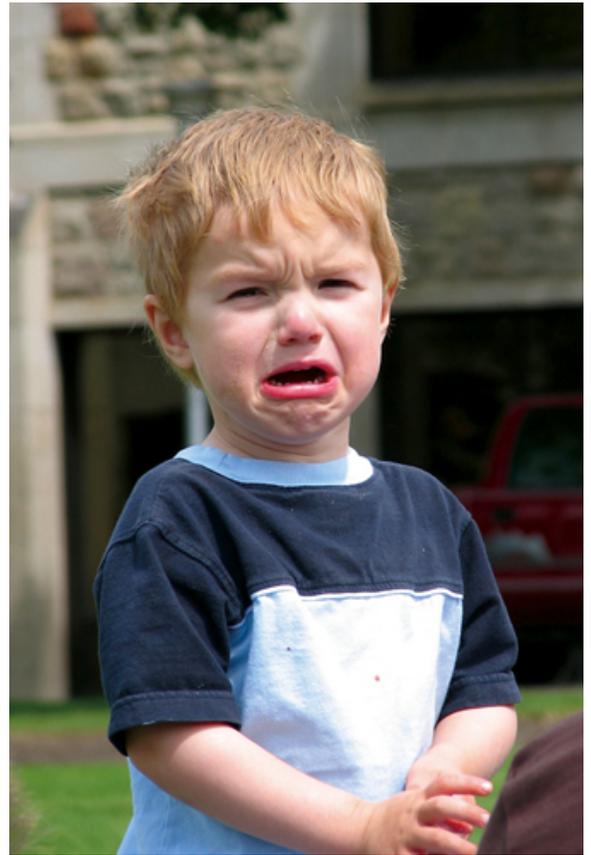


*"These things I have spoken unto you, that in Me ye might have Peace. **In The World Ye Shall Have Tribulation**: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world." John 16:33no2 KJV*



If we had no pain or sorrow in our lives, God would be a liar! That we do suffer, establishes the veracity of His Word. "Yea, and all that will live Godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution." In the midst of the most heart rending trial I can boldly say that God will deliver me as surely as He said! We tend to remember only God's positive promises, like; "Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. – God shall supply all your need. – I give unto them Eternal Life. – They shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of My Hand." But, these are also promises; "In the world ye shall have tribulation – All that will live Godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution. – Whom the Lord Loveth He chasteneth (corrects), and scourgeth (shapes) every son whom He receiveth. – For whom He did foreknow, He also did predestinate to be conformed to the Image of His Son." Our trials and tribulations should remind us the "foundation of our faith standeth sure." God's Word will never be unfulfilled. "Forever, O LORD, Thy Word is settled in Heaven." We will have trials. However, we are also promised, "God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also

make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it." Our escape is our faith in God's Word. "Nay, in all these things we are MORE THAN CONQUERORS through Him that Loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the Love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." Not even death itself can separate us from God! Are we better than our Lord who "endured such contradiction of sinners against Himself," and yet raised Himself from the dead? We should rejoice that we are counted worthy to suffer as Christ. When we are in the midst of trial, we can understand "His suffering." We come to know our Lord on the most intimate level. We then comprehend in some minute fashion the heartache and anguish that our Lord endured on our behalf. In the depths of our own pain and sorrow we truly glimpse the grandeur of our Saviour's Love. Like the old hymn says, "Alas, and did my Saviour bleed? And did my Sovereign die? Would He devote that sacred Head for such a worm as I?"

Our trials may often cause us doubt,  
But nothing should we fret about,  
God's Word forever standeth sure,  
His Truth will evermore endure. ~CGP

When you are persecuted, "Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your Reward in Heaven:" The Apostle Paul put it this way; "For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the Glory which shall be revealed in us." This life in all its glory is only "a vapour." The totality of time is a less than a microbe in the ocean of eternity. It may seem long and arduous now, but when we look back from Heaven's shore it will be forgotten in the Joy our arrival! It will be worth it all when we see Christ! Tribulations and trials verify God's promises if we obey. They reinforce our faith, not weaken it.

*"My brethren, count it all Joy when ye fall into divers (different) temptations; knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing." James 1:2-4 KJV*