

"For our *light affliction*, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal." *2 Corinthians 4:17-18 KJV*



Does your life seem light or heavy? Perspective has a lot to do with perception. When you say, "I'm hungry," do you mean you feel hunger or just appetite? Have you gone days without food or just hours? Are you hungry in the same sense as an Ethiopian beggar? We tell our children something will happen in a "little while," and what is a short time for us, seems never ending for the child. Remember how the school week seemed to never end? Even the school day itself was often unbearable in length and recess was so far away. Your thoughts of future were contained in a day's length or two, Christmas never came, and now, as an adult, there are never enough hours in a day. Experience adds perspective and different individuals will frequently judge the same circumstances as worlds apart. God is infinite in depth of personality, attributes, and characteristics, so time is of little consequence to Him. However, He assumed flesh and lived as a man, bound by time, death, pain, and sorrow, so He is intimately acquainted with your perspective "*For we have not an High Priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in ALL POINTS tempted like as we are, YET WITHOUT SIN. Let us therefore come boldly unto the Throne of Grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.*" God knows the troubles you have and if you will obey Him, they will be but "*light afflictions.*" If we rest simply in what we know, our relationship with God will wane in its zeal and excitement. We must hourly seek new depths, new heights, new knowledge, about our Lord to maintain our Joy and Peace at a refreshing and exciting level by studying and meditating on God's Word. Else, burdens become burdensome, and troubles, troublesome. Observe how some believers endure affliction without a whimper and others continually complain? Our level of maturity in the faith determines our perspective; much like a child would faint if made to carry the same workload as their parent. We must seek fresh manna every day from the "*Bread of Life*" and "*Living Water*" to quench our soul's thirst! Paul endured multiple persecutions including being stoned and left for dead, but he called our earthly sojourn a "*light affliction.*" When is the last time you were imprisoned for your faith? Is your faith worthy of imprisonment? Scourging? Stoning? The next time you think your burdens too heavy consider the rough wooden cross you Saviour carried on His raw and bleeding back to secure your eternal security. Rejoice not in present predicament, but in promised pleasure; not in the temporal trouble, but in eternal ecstasy!

Our present state may seem unfair,
But it can never e'en compare,
To promised joys we'll have up there,
When Christ receives us in the air! ~CGP

If you seek, you can expect new discoveries each day about God which will cause your burdens to disappear into the bliss of "*peace that passeth all understanding; [into] joy unspeakable and full of glory.*" If we walk side by side with Father, obey God's Word, we will feel no burden for He will be carrying us both! Jesus said;

"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." *Matthew 11:28-30 KJV*