

“For it is better, if the will of God be so, that ye suffer for well doing, than for evil doing.” 1 Peter 3:17 KJV



Being the oldest of five, I understood that I needed to be more responsible than my siblings for their protection when Mom and Dad were not around. Don't get me wrong, there were plenty of times I failed miserably, but I learned from my failures that, if I really cared, I would be more watchful of them and less concerned for myself. I was also rewarded from time to time with special privileges. I now realize the great trust placed in me by my parents. Sometimes I resented being the “babysitter” and would grab my shotgun and disappear into the jungle for hours just to be alone. It is the responsibility of more mature believers to watch over the “lambs” of our heavenly Father and not resent their mediocrity and immaturity, but rather to pray for them and exhort them with the Truth in the Spirit of love. We should not be resentful, but rather glad of the trust given us by our Father. God is His own reward. *“HE is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him.”* More seasoned warriors of the faith walk more closely with God and thereby receive insights and blessings the less mature never experience. Just as Ruth received *“handfuls of purpose”* from Boaz's reapers per his command, those who glean only in Father's field receive special attention. They will drink of His Water and sup at His Table where He will reach out and hand them the *“parched corn”* from His own infinite portion and allow them to dip their morsel of bread into the infinite feast of Almighty God! If I have God, I have Eternal Life, itself! I need naught else! If *“the Lord is my Shepherd, I SHALL NOT WANT.”* Or as the child quoted in Sunday school; *“The Lord is my shepherd and that's all I want!”* When you get to the end of your rope and find that God is all you have left, you'll discover that He is all you ever needed! If you have God, you don't need YOUR rope! We desperately flail our arms in the tempest of life to stay afloat while the Saviour stands patiently waiting to reach out to us if we would but cry out, *“Lord save me!”* Peter sank in the storm, but walked safely through it back to the ship, because he walked hand in hand with Jesus! The storm does not matter if Christ holds my hand for He is its Master! *“Nothing is too hard for the Lord, for with God, nothing shall be impossible”* We hold God's hand and walk with Him by knowing His Word and having it constantly in our thoughts to direct our decisions.

If God should will my rocky trail,
He's by my side lest I should fail,
Nothing 'gainst Him can e'er prevail,
Safe at His side, naught can assail! ~CGP

Without the sun's power, clouds would not exist! If it weren't for the rocks in its bed the stream would have no song! Without the valleys, there would be no mountain tops. Without light, there would be no shadows! *“God is light and in Him is no darkness at all!”* God is ALWAYS where you are, even in the pit of despair! He will hold you close if you but ask.

“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 (eternity with His beloved) that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the Throne of God.” Hebrews 12:1-2 KJV