

"But the God of all Grace, who hath called us unto His eternal Glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you." 1 Peter 5:10 KJV



We say that a baby “settles down,” when they stop crying and fall asleep. They finally realize that their efforts are futile, or they’ve worn themselves out with their struggles. Believers often cry out to God, because they find themselves in a hardship of their own making, and God will sometimes be silent so that we may learn that either we’re ok, or not to make the same mistake again. Sadly, many repeat the same errors over and over again and never seem to learn the intended lesson. How many times have you watched your child doing something, knowing the end result is trouble for them, but because they need a lesson, you let them continue? When I led Children’s Church, I often withheld rewards. Everyone always got a little, but the well behaved got extra. Sometimes I just gave treats for no discernible reason. *“Boaz commanded his young men, saying, ‘Let her (Ruth) glean even among the sheaves, and reproach her not: And let fall also some of the handfuls of purpose for her, and leave them, that she may glean them, and rebuke her not.”* God gives extra on purpose to His children. Suffering may not always be chastisement, but enlightenment; or it may be Satan at work. If we have sinned, we will know. Always look for and wait patiently for any lesson that may be learned. It may be that a weaker believer may come to you for advice who couldn’t have endured the lesson, but God allowed it in your life simply to give you understanding so that you may help another. My wife and I lost a child at 10 weeks and we didn’t understand until months later when another mom went through the same and my wife was able to minister to her sorrow. When we begin to view trials as training, and we begin to say with Job, *“The Lord giveth, and the Lord taketh away. Blessed be the name of the Lord.”* We will then know what it is to be established and settled. God will strengthen us to be able to endure trials so that others will marvel at our endurance and His Grace. *“I can do ALL things through Christ (obedience to God) which strengtheneth me.”* Be ever mindful to give God the praise for your strength. *“For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure. Let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.”* Pride will bring the powerful to their knees, so beware! *“God resisteth the proud, but giveth Grace unto the humble.”* God told Paul in the midst of trial; *“My Grace is sufficient for thee.”* Trust God; He cannot lie and *“He careth for you.”*

The trials come, and trials go,
So that we may thrive and grow,
From strength to strength we will endure,
Our faith established, settled, sure. ~CGP

Believers are called to ETERNAL Glory! Time is a droplet of mist in the universe of eternity. Forever is a long, long, long, long, long, long, time! *“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to His abundant Mercy hath begotten us again unto a Lively Hope by the Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and THAT FADETH NOT AWAY, reserved in Heaven for you, who are kept by the Power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the Last Time. Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold (many layered) temptations.”* We endure, but for a moment, that we may obtain an eternal inheritance!

“And I give unto them Eternal Life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father’s hand.” John 10:28-29 KJV