

# TAKE UP THY SWORD †

A newsletter with hope and encouragement from the Holy Bible

*For the Word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword... (Hebrews 4:16)*

Issue 1

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## How to Smile Through a Trial

*My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers 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).*

It can be hard to notice a silver lining when you feel engulfed by a dark cloud. Is it possible to rejoice during a time of struggle? Can we really have peace in the midst of a storm? In Luke 8:23-25, we see how Jesus was able to sleep while “the wind and the raging of the water” frightened his disciples. Maybe the answers are found in yet another question: “Where is your faith?”

We were warned ahead of time in John 16:33 that we would have “tribulations” in this world. When I’m going through a trial, one of the best incentives for me to endure until the end is the possibility that it is only for my testimony. I have enough hope, faith, and trust in God to know that I am an overcomer by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of my testimony (Rev 12:11). If we “walk by faith, not by sight” (2 Cor 5:7), then we don’t have to allow our circumstances to dictate our countenance. Come what may, we can continue to smile!

Let’s review some familiar bible stories which identify three common reasons why we face certain trials:

1. God is testing our faith – ...*We glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; And patience, experience; and experience, hope (Rom 5:3-4).*

In the first two chapters of Job, he went from abundance and health to poverty and sickness. However, he did not complain (at first, anyways) as he told his wife that they should accept good and bad. God wanted to prove that Job did not only serve Him because of all his blessings. Forty chapters later, Job was restored double for his trouble! We, too, can endure the testing of our faith because our Lord is:

*...The Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may able to comfort them which are in any trouble... (2 Cor 1:3-4).*

2. We are walking in disobedience – *It is good for me that I have been afflicted; that I might learn thy statutes (Ps 119:71).*

King David made a costly mistake in 2 Samuel 11 when he committed adultery with Bathsheba and murdered her husband, Uriah, after discovering that she was pregnant. In chapter 12, Nathan the prophet was sent to reveal his punishment - the child would have to pay the ultimate price. David quickly acknowledged his sin, repented,

and conceived King Solomon soon after. We all are disobedient at times, so just remember:

*... His anger endureth but a moment; in His favour is life: weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning (Ps 30:5).*

3. The enemy is attacking us – *The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy... (John 10:10).*

The assembly of Judah and Jerusalem came up against a great army in 2 Chronicles 20. King Jehoshaphat was afraid at first, but then gathered everyone for corporate prayer and fasting to seek the Lord’s counsel. Jehoshaphat was told that the battle belonged to God; so all the people had to do was fearlessly go out to face their adversary with the sound of praise and worship leading them. When the Lord heard their singing, He caused their enemies to fight among themselves and none survived – Judah simply came by to collect the spoil! We don’t have to be afraid when we’re under attack, we can declare that:

*...God hath caused me to be fruitful in the land of my affliction (Gen 41:52).*

We can always find strength, love, and joy in the Word – just believe that it is true! Praying to the Father in the name of Jesus Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit does not have to be regarded as a difficult or tedious task. Our cries will be heard when we humbly search for Him with all our heart. Yes, “we are more than conquerors through Him that loved us” (Rom 8:37)!

**THUS SAITH THE LORD, “The sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us” (Rom 8:18).**

**PRAYER:** *Hear, O Lord, and have mercy upon me: Lord, be thou my helper. Thou hast turned for me my mourning into dancing; thou hast put off my sackcloth, and girded me with gladness; To the end that my glory may sing praise to thee, and not be silent. O Lord my God, I will give thanks unto thee for ever (Ps 30:10-12).*

**“...Be encouraged in the law of the Lord” (2 Chron 31:4):**

1 Samuel 30:8; 1 Chronicles 5:20; Job 5:17-19; Psalm 3:3-5, 37:3-5, 42:11, 91:14-16, 119:65-67; John 16:33; 1 Corinthians 15:57; 2 Corinthians 8:2; Hebrews 11:25-26; James 5:10-11, 13-16; 1 Peter 1:5-7, 4:12-16, 5:6-10.

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