

God's Purposes in Trials - Compassion

June 22, 2017

Hebrews 2:17-18 NASB

17 Therefore, He had to be made like His brethren in all things, so that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.

18 For since He Himself was tempted in that which He has suffered, He is able to come to the aid of those who are tempted.

You cannot mourn with those who mourn unless you have mourned yourself. You cannot weep with those who weep unless you have wept yourself. You cannot sympathize with those in pain unless you have been in pain yourself. You cannot encourage those who have fallen and failed unless you have failed yourself. You cannot be moved with compassion for those who suffer unless you have suffered yourself.

How much of our personal suffering is for the very purpose of ministering to another soul, maybe just one other soul, who will need our solace and our encouragement to not give up but finish their course by keeping the faith? Is that soul worth your suffering?

Hebrews 4:14-16 NASB

14 Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.

15 For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin.

16 Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Compassion only comes by suffering. Only after you feel pain and suffering yourself, will you be touched with the suffering of someone else.

Hebrews 5:5-9 NASB

5 So also Christ did not glorify Himself so as to become a high priest, but He who said to Him, "YOU ARE MY SON, TODAY I HAVE BEGOTTEN YOU";

6 just as He says also in another passage, "YOU ARE A PRIEST FOREVER ACCORDING TO THE ORDER OF MELCHIZEDEK."

7 In the days of His flesh, He offered up both prayers and supplications with loud crying and tears to the One able to save Him from death, and He was heard because of His piety.

8 Although He was a Son, He learned obedience from the things which He suffered.

9 And having been made perfect, He became to all those who obey Him the source of eternal salvation.

2 Corinthians 1:3-7 NASB

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort,

4 **who comforts** (*parakaleō* - call to one's side, console, strengthen, comfort, encourage, instruct, speak to) **us in all our affliction** so that **we will be able to comfort** (*parakaleō*) **those who are in any affliction with the comfort** (*paraklēsis*) **with which we ourselves are comforted by God** (*parakaleō*).

5 For just as the sufferings of Christ are ours in abundance, so also our comfort is abundant through Christ.

6 But **if we are afflicted, it is for your comfort and salvation; or if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which is effective in the patient enduring of the same sufferings which we also suffer;**

7 and our hope for you is firmly grounded, knowing that as you are sharers of our sufferings, so also you are sharers of our comfort.

- *God desires to comfort you in every difficulty, every trial, every suffering. He never overlooks one painful moment; not even one circumstance of suffering.*
- *Your suffering and your comfort are never wasted, but always targeted, to help another soul whom He brings across your path.*
- *Are you surrendered to God's will of suffering, if your suffering means the hope and the comfort that you will bring to someone else?*

1 Timothy 1:15-16 NASB

15 It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, **that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost of all.**

16 **Yet for this reason I found mercy, so that in me as the foremost, Jesus Christ might demonstrate His perfect patience as an example for those who would believe in Him for eternal life.**

Psalm 51:10-13 NASB

10 Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me.

11 Do not cast me away from Your presence And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me.

12 Restore to me the joy of Your salvation And sustain me with a willing spirit.

13 **Then I will teach transgressors Your ways, And sinners will be converted to You.**

Luke 22:31-32 NASB

31 "Simon, Simon, behold, Satan has demanded permission to sift you like wheat;

32 but I have prayed for you, that your faith may not fail; and you, **when once you have turned again, strengthen your brothers.**"

2 Corinthians 7:5-7 NASB

5 For even when we came into Macedonia **our flesh had no rest, but we were afflicted on every side: conflicts without, fears within.**

6 But God, **who comforts the depressed, comforted us by the coming of Titus;**

7 and not only by his coming, but also **by the comfort with which he was comforted in you, as he reported to us your longing, your mourning, your zeal for me;** so that I rejoiced even more.

1 Thessalonians 5:11 NASB

11 Therefore **encourage one another and build up one another, just as you also are doing.**