

CALVARY YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

CALVARY YOUTH VOICES



PSALM 9:9

The Lord also will be a refuge for the oppressed, a
refuge in times of trouble.

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EDITOR'S LETTER

Dear Readers,

In the past few months the YF has gone through repeated changes -- constantly to tango between meeting on-site and online. Finally, we are able to return to church for YF over the past few weeks. We thank God for seeing the YF through all these changes and adjustments, giving us the ability to continue YF regardless of the situation.

Amidst all the restrictions, we still managed to have a few onsite events - a major one being the Combined B-P Youth Conference that Narahda shares in this issue. Other events include our most recent Bible Study on Sarah, and our sermon series on the Sins of The Tongue and Heart. Once again, thank God for seeing us through these uncertain times!

On the topic of God's extraordinary power and wisdom, the passage we are considering for this issue is Daniel 2:20-22.

"Daniel answered and said, Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever: for wisdom and might are his:

And he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding:

He revealeth the deep and secret things: he knoweth what is in the darkness, and the light dwelleth with him."

From the beginning of Daniel 20 until verse 13, we see Nebuchadnezzar's desire to have his dream interpreted, summoning "magicians...astrologers, and the sorcerers".

EDITOR'S LETTER

However, no one could interpret his dream, some even fabricated the interpretation so their heads would not roll. However in verse 16, we see Daniel coming forward to show Nebuchadnezzar the interpretation, on the account that Nebuchadnezzar sparing him and his friends. When he successfully interpreted the dream, he attributed his wisdom to God (v. 20-22).

Daniel proclaims God's wisdom and power (v.20) -- saying that He has the power to displace or install kings, gives those who are wise wisdom and knowledge. He is the One who changes the seasons, the One who knows our deepest secrets and all shall be illuminated with Him. "...he knoweth what is in the darkness, and the light dwelleth with him" emphasises the contrast between mere man's darkness and God's infinite light. His holiness illuminates even the darkest of our sins and secrets. The phrase "in the dark" applies here; where man does not know or is uncertain, God is all-knowing and clear. In His light, no one can hide, for He knows all things.

Daniel continuously praised and thanked God for making the interpretation known to him, effectively saving the lives of him and his friend. He realised the value in God's revelation to him as he knows God's power and infinite knowledge -- to reveal the true interpretation is something that only God could do. The mysteries that even Nebuchadnezzar's own magicians and astrologers could not fathom, only the man empowered with God's wisdom could.

God's wisdom and power is infinite, our finite minds cannot comprehend the vastness of this power. Whatever knowledge or wisdom we have accumulated, we should attribute it to God.

EDITOR'S LETTER

The One who appoints rulers, changes the seasons; the One who sees through darkness; He is also the One who gives us the ability and strength to go through day by day in wisdom and knowledge. What more does He deserve than our utmost respect and reverence?

Daniel 2:20-22 teaches us the importance of recognising and remembering God's power. He has ultimate authority over all. Whatever we are able to accomplish is by His grace. As we deal with individual successes and even failures, we must remember that God bestows the strength and ability for us to accomplish "earthly success". Recognising that nothing can be achieved by our own merit, the act of attributing to God all strength and ability will point those around us to Him alone.

The world subscribes to the belief of self-reliance and one's abilities to 'put ourselves out there', to 'chase our dreams' and to be a 'go-getter'. These are the traits that the world ascribes to successful people, the self-made man and those who are driven by their hunger for success.

What is the Christian's fuel? What motivates a Christian to succeed? Knowing that the Christian's success should be attributed to God's grace, but should we simply wait around for God's blessing? The Christian's foremost ambition ought to be to glorify God in all that



he/she does. This can be illustrated with the simplest of examples, our academic studies. A Christian student should not simply pray and wait for God to bless with an 'A' in his exams -- God is not a genie who grants wishes according to our whims.

EDITOR'S LETTER

Instead, with the primary desire to honour God in all his endeavours, the Christian student demonstrates his faith through his attitude at work, through his unwavering faith amidst peak exam periods, through whom he attributes his grades.

While the Christian is one who lives in the world, he does not act like them. A regular student would attribute academic success to sleepless nights and countless consultations, a Christian student attributes this to blessings given by God.

This attitude applies not only to our successes -- the way we treat our failures is also a testimony of our faith. Realising that He has a plan for you, regardless of times of failure or success, it should be our unwavering attitude to honour God in all that we do.

In Christ,
The Editor



NEWSFLASH!

CBPYC - Narahda

Thank God that despite the Covid situation, we were still able to fellowship across BP churches and through the Combined BP Youth Conference (CBPYC)! It was held on 10 and 11 August in a hybrid format. Youths from BP Churches came from as far as London and Adelaide to tune into the messages, as well as a time of fellowship and games despite being physically apart. Thank God for this measure of grace given to us to be able to use technology to come together and fellowship. For this year's conference, Rev William Yap was the speaker on the theme entitled "The Lamp & The Light". He preached the message of the centrality of God's word and conducted three workshops.

In the message on the centrality of God's word, Rev Yap spoke from Ezra 7:1-10. He reminded us about how despite the many changes in the world, despite the temptations that have been laid out in front of us, God's word is still relevant! Taking the example of Ezra, we are to be "ready scribes", swift and responsive, with a zealous and purposeful attitude towards what the world sends our way. We are to be able to instinctively think of God's word in our lives. With that in mind, we should always be interpreting our lives in the light of God, whom we know to be a purposeful and intentional creator in all our ways.

The workshops focused on the methods in studying God's word. We covered the methods to study narratives, epistles, and the Psalms. One overarching method that Rev Yap used was to

Read, Interpret, Meditate and Apply.



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NEWSFLASH!

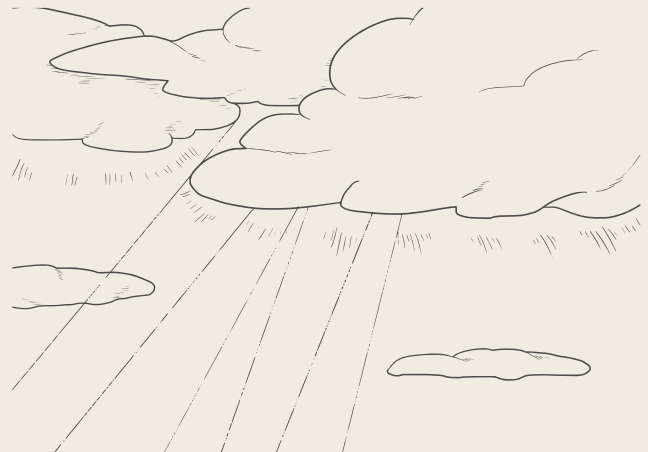
CBPYC - Narahda

With this, we were reminded not just to passively read the Bible, but to actively and intentionally meditate and study His word.



As one of the on-site attendees, the game session consisted of an outing to Jurong Lake Park on the second day. In our groups, we went searching for landmarks within the park and acted out lines that were sent by the gamemasters. Despite the strong sun shining down on us, everyone was excited as we finally got a chance to bond! Despite being a short session, we thank God for the opportunity to get to know each other better!

I found the reminder on how God's word should be central in our lives especially refreshing. Given the fast pace of our lives, along with Covid halting in-person worship. During this period, I have often found myself worshipping superficially, instead of dedicating my whole heart and mind to Him. In times of difficulty, I tried to look for strength through my own means, instead of looking to God for guidance and wisdom. Though it is easy to say that we should pray and seek God, it is difficult to actively do so. Thank God for this good reminder on living life according to God, actively seeking and living Him out!



YF INTERVIEWS

Featuring Ignatius!



Q: Introduce yourself!

Hey there I'm Ignatius (People usually call me Iggy☺). I'm currently serving NS, gonna ORD soon WOOHOO! Interesting facts that people may not know is that I'm a black belt in taekwondo☺(But I have not trained in a long while), I've also had the opportunity to shake the hands of President Halimah ☺

Q: How long have you been in Calvary, and in YF? How did you come to know about our church?

I've been in Calvary for almost a year and a half ,and I came to know about Calvary through my grandparents who live very near our Church.

Q: Do you have a favourite hymn/song that really touched you? If so, share a few thoughts about how the song/hymn impacted you!

For me it would be 'Blessed Assurance'. The name itself suggests that we, as Christians, can be assured of God's presence in our lives through both good and bad times, and He is willing to forgive us of our iniquities. This hymn certainly touched me.

Q: What was the best moment/moments you have had in YF?

There is no specific moment as I always treasure every moment with my YF group and with other YF'ers in church or on zoom☺☺

Q: What is a food you can eat every day for a year?

Probably Nasi Briyani☺

SINS OF THE TONGUE & HEART - SERMON REVIEW

By Cassidy

The sins of the tongue and heart are often the sins that we find the most difficult to overcome. This is because there are many temptations we face that will lead us to these sins. When we talk about these two sins, we refer to gossip and idolatry.

The common denominator of these two topics is the testimony of our faith. Our manner of speech is something that is key to our testimony; how we talk to others can be a sign of our Christian love. Proverbs 15:2 "The tongue of the wise useth knowledge aright: but the mouth of fools poureth out foolishness." Will we be seen as fools for speaking untruths and foolish things, or shall we be wise and speak knowledge?

Deacon Weng Ngai took us through The Sin of The Tongue -- Gossip. He identified 3 types of gossip, namely: talebearing/whispering, being a busybody and speaking vanity. These are synonymous to 3 different aspects of our speech: the **act**, **attitude** and **content**, respectively.

- i) Talebearers/Whisperers -- divulging confidential information, that may have a negative connotation (the *act*)
- ii) Busybodies -- wanting to know about and be involved in other people's business (the *attitude*)
- iii) Speaking Vanity -- wanting to speak empty contents and untruths (the *content*)

We know that gossip is a sin, but the act of simply listening or enjoying gossip is also a sin. There is always a social aspect tied to gossip -- the more things you know, the more 'material' you have to interact and bond with others.

SINS OF THE TONGUE & HEART - SERMON REVIEW

By Cassidy

However, we as Christians need to remember that **we are anchored in the truth**; spreading untruths and speaking vanities of others is not only a bad reflection of our faith, but also a contradiction to the truth that we profess.

Psalm 12 reminds us of the stark contrast between the words of the wicked (v.1-4) and the words of the Lord (v.5-6). The words of the wicked are described as “vanity” (v.2), speaking “proud things” (v.3), speaking with “flattering lips and a double heart” (v.2). Conversely, the Lord’s words are described as “pure”, “as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times” (v.6). It is not for aesthetic purposes that His words are described this way; the arduous process that God’s speech framed aims to illustrate that His speech is rooted in proper motive and substance. It is not something that is tainted by untruth, it is not something that is casual.



With speech being such a versatile tool, there is no ‘hard-and-fast’ rule that we can always abide by; the definition of ‘gossip’ is already difficult to define. Dn Weng Ngai suggests that there is a spectrum of gossip -- from obviously negative gossip to a perhaps more neutral kind of gossip. But how then shall we judge what is gossip and what isn’t?

Here are some principles that Dn Weng Ngai proposed to evaluate our speech:

- 1) the substance of our speech must be characterised by truth
- 2) the motivation of our speech must be characterised by purity
- 3) the habit of our speech must be characterised by restraint

SINS OF THE TONGUE & HEART - SERMON REVIEW

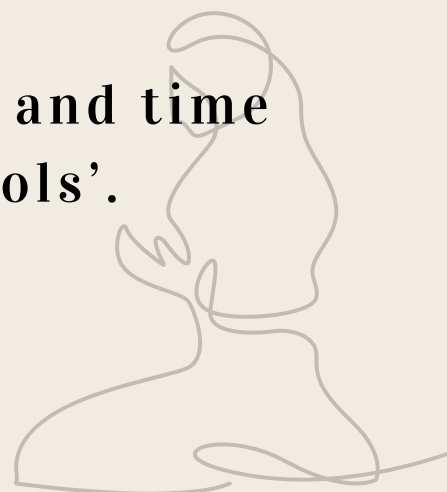
By Cassidy

Our speech reveals the motivation of our hearts. Luke 6:45 “A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh.” Examine what is in your heart. What are the things that motivate your speech? This is a good reminder to evaluate our speech, reminding us that our speech is something that is key to our testimony.

The message “The Sins of The Heart -- Unfaithfulness” by Eld Su also examines another key part of our testimony -- our priorities. I refer to priorities in tandem with idolatry and unfaithfulness as Elder Su defined idolatry as ‘allowing anything or anyone to take the place of God in our lives’. Our priorities should not shift whenever we want to; we cannot say ‘during examination season, I shall take a step away from YF’, ‘this sport requires me to train on weekends, I am going to join it anyway.’

Elder Su expounded on Hosea 2, which described Hosea’s marriage to Gomer, a prostitute. Hosea’s unwavering faithfulness to his wife despite her utter unfaithfulness is a parallel to God’s love for the Israelites despite their perpetual disobedience as God’s chosen people. The sense of betrayal that Hosea felt was how God felt when the Israelites turned away from Him over and again, trusting more in themselves or other idols.

Things that take away our heart and time from God are considered ‘idols’.



SINS OF THE TONGUE & HEART - SERMON REVIEW

By Cassidy

This is akin to modern-day idolatry; while we do not have altars or shrines of other gods in our homes, we do have other things that take our attention away from focusing on the things on God. They can be our phones, studies, music, etc... Anything or anyone can be an 'idol', if that particular entity takes away our time and attention that should be dedicated to God and His work. Exodus 34:14 says "For thou shalt worship no other god: for the Lord, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God:" Our God is jealous, He wants our full devotion, there ought to be exclusive devotion to Him.

Moreover, things that make us rely on ourselves or the world instead of God is also considered an 'idol'. The world often turns to things like horoscopes, manifesting and crystals to illuminate their path, to give them a direction. As Christians, the One who directs our path is and should always be God. Our utmost priority should be God, and this will translate to a desire to spend more time with Him and the furtherance of His Kingdom. Like the Israelites, we are also a chosen people and we need to seek His Holiness, we need to "Set our affection on things above, not on things on the earth" (Colossians 3:2). There is a constant need for us to turn to God, to prioritise Him, to put on the new man.



SINS OF THE TONGUE & HEART - SERMON REVIEW

By Cassidy

When this gets difficult, we should remember to seek Him. Ephesians 6:18 reminds us that “Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;” -- when the path ahead appears difficult, we know that we can always turn to Him in prayer.

In conclusion, where our priorities lie and how we speak are elements that set us apart from the world. **Being set apart means having different conduct and attitudes from the world, there is a need to be a light amongst men** -- Matthew 5:16 “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.” These two messages have been good reminders for us to re-examine our hearts, to realise that as much as we are in this world, we should not be living like the world, but as followers of Christ.

FOLLOW THE LAMB: BOOK REVIEW

By Samuel



'Follow the Lamb' by Horatius Bonar, a thin book of only 28 pages, is a concise and useful book that covers aspects of following after the Lamb in 15 short chapters. In each aspect, Bonar takes the effort to provide substantial scriptural references not only to support his claims but to show us that this is what the Word teaches us to do.

Throughout the book, Bonar clearly explains the way we should live and the things to avoid as we follow Christ. If you are a young Christian, this book will show you how to begin your new life in Christ. If you are a mature Christian, this book will help you reflect on your relationship with Christ.

This book can be split into 2 main parts – chapters 1-10 present to us things we should **take heed to** in our walk with God. Whereas, chapters 11-15 speak of our **relationship with God**. Some exhortations in the first ten chapters include holding fast to our faith, spending time with God and the Bible, watching our steps and our pride, as well as against the Devil. The final five chapters exhort us to live for Christ, to beware of hindrances to our growth, and to be of good cheer as we follow after Christ.

Bonar first establishes the means by which we are saved – by God's grace and through His blood, where we are to continue in this grace and to keep our consciences clean by applying the blood. The act of applying the blood simply reminds us of how the blood of Christ that was shed on the cross has saved us from our bondage to sin. When we sin, we need this blood to cleanse and wash us from iniquity, not in a literal sense, but in a figurative manner where we seek God's forgiveness and pardon. Do we remember the blood of Christ that was shed on Calvary's cross for our sins?

How honest are we concerning sin in our life, no matter how great or small they may be?

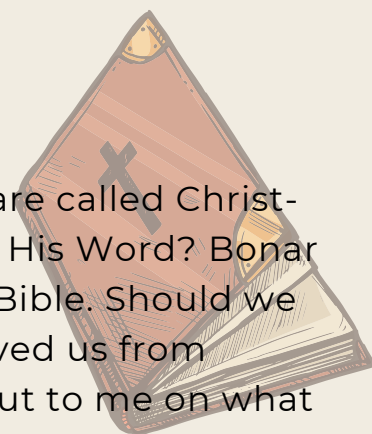
FOLLOW THE LAMB: BOOK REVIEW

By Samuel

Upon believing in Jesus and being saved, we now are called Christians. Do we truly desire to be with God and to read His Word? Bonar urges us to spend time with God and to study the Bible. Should we not have the desire to be with the One who has saved us from eternal damnation? He makes a point that stood out to me on what makes the Bible so precious. What is the Bible? *It is divine thoughts embodied in divine words.* We know that the Bible is written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. This means that we hold a book that IS the very thoughts of God, not put in man's mere and finite words, but captured in heavenly words. Is not this book so special then? Is this book constantly being read, or left on the shelf to collect dust over six days of every week?

Bonar then proceeds to caution us to watch our steps, to beware of pride, of one-sided truth, and to watch against Satan. We are told to watch against the old self at every point in our lives, especially to put self in the background. *'But ye shall not be so: but he that is greatest among you, let him be as the younger; and he that is chief, as he that doth serve.'* (Luke 22:26) This verse sums up how to put our 'self' out of the way. If self is allowed to come to the forefront, it would result in pride. Let the one who is highest in seniority or the one most endowed with talents be as the youngest brethren. Let the one who is a chief or a ruler, be as one who serves. This should serve as a reminder to us in all circumstances; to put self in a low position and others higher and before your-self.

After taking heed as followers of the Lamb, being a follower, a believer, one who has been saved, what are we doing for God? What should be our response, after accepting Christ as our personal Lord and Saviour?



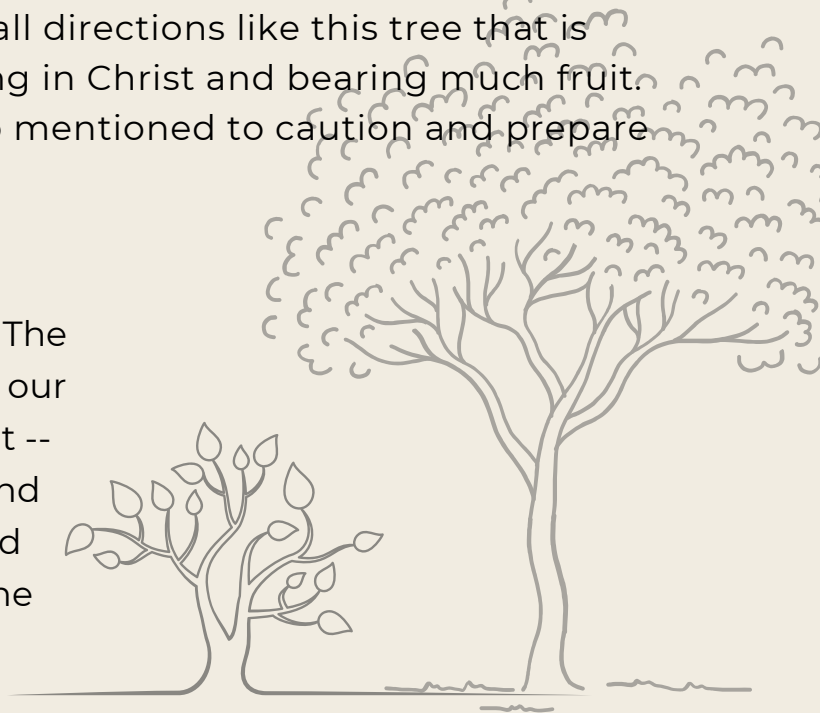
FOLLOW THE LAMB: BOOK REVIEW

By Samuel

Bonar makes an interesting point about our salvation. Believing that I do believe will not grant the assurance of salvation. The fact that I simply believe is all that matters. This means that we need not question or evaluate our belief in Christ. If we truly believe, we have salvation. This also removes all doubts regarding salvation.

Bonar ends this book by likening us to a tree. Are we growing in all directions – roots downwards towards the water and the nutrients, growing tall towards the sun, branches spreading outward, not only flowering but bearing fruit, not just one fruit but many ripened fruits? We should be growing in all directions like this tree that is firmly rooted in the Word, growing in Christ and bearing much fruit. Six hindrances to growth are also mentioned to caution and prepare us for the road ahead.

Bonar closes with a reminder that through the blood, we have peace. The law turns from being our enemy to our friend, such that we can delight in it -- delight in doing what is holy, just and good. We are no longer condemned and we can now find joy in doing the will of God.



There are many other points I would wish to share in this book review but with the confines of this review, it would be impractical to do so. Hence, I encourage you to read this book. It will benefit you greatly no matter where you are in your walk with God.

DELIVERED BY AFFLICTION- HOW TRIALS AWAKEN US TO GOD

Vaneetha Rendall Risner - DesiringGod.org

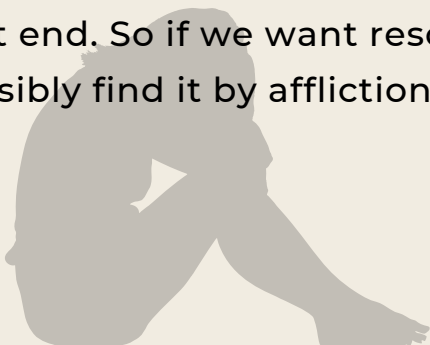
No one wants to suffer. We may welcome small trials, counting them joy because of what they will do in us, but no one invites life-altering pain. No one wants to lie awake with a pit in the stomach, agonizing over where a disastrous situation is headed. No one wants to experience a loss so deep that we wonder how to even go on.

While we understand that rain falls into everyone's life, no one wants a deluge. We don't pray for it. We don't seek it. We don't welcome it. All we can think about is relief. Which is what we cry out to God for. Reprieve. Rescue. Deliverance.

But in Job, we discover a surprising truth: sometimes deliverance comes by affliction.

He delivereth the poor in his affliction, and openeth their ears in oppression. (Job 36:15)

This statement seems to make no sense at first. How can affliction deliver the afflicted? We want to be delivered from affliction, to have whatever is troubling us removed, and we pray and work to that end. So if we want rescue and relief from affliction, how can we possibly find it by affliction?



DELIVERED BY AFFLICTION- HOW TRIALS AWAKEN US TO GOD

Vaneetha Rendall Risner - DesiringGod.org

In order to be delivered *by* affliction, what we are being delivered *from* must be worse than the affliction itself. Since affliction is unpleasant at best and crushing at worst, what we are being delivered from must be a great evil. Or to say it another way, the affliction must be producing something that is far more precious than immediate relief.

So what does affliction deliver us from, and what is more precious than relief from our deep pain?

Delivered from Indifference

God “opens [our] ear” by adversity, which means our struggles make us listen more closely to him. We learn to recognize his voice, as Samuel did, when he was aware that God was speaking to him (1 Samuel 3:4-14). We can then find God’s comfort, presence, and direction in trials because we are actively looking for it, with eyes and ears open.

As the prophet Isaiah says,

20 And though the Lord give you the *bread of adversity*, and the *water of affliction*, yet shall not thy teachers be removed into a corner any more, but *thine eyes shall see thy teachers*:

21 And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying,

“This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left.”

(Isaiah 30:20-21)

DELIVERED BY AFFLICTION- HOW TRIALS AWAKEN US TO GOD

Vaneetha Rendall Risner - DesiringGod.org

Listening to God, recognizing his voice, and heeding it above the competing voices around us will radically transform us. It will give us supernatural wisdom and clear direction; it will ultimately reshape who we are.

Psalms 119 shows us that affliction can make the word of God more effective in our lives. The psalmist points out, “*Before I was afflicted I went astray; but now have I kept thy word.*” (Psalm 119:67), and, “*It is good for me that I have been afflicted; that I might learn thy statutes.*” (Psalm 119:71). Affliction draws us to the things of God because we realize the things of this world are broken. Nothing is as it should be, sin has marred everything, and all creation is groaning.

Pain spurs us to search for meaning and hope beyond our present circumstances, which can open our eyes to the power and beauty of the word. This word can reframe our world, bringing light to our eyes, opening our ears, and feeding our souls. God’s word and his presence become sweeter in our suffering as we taste and see for ourselves his goodness and grace.

In my own struggle, I honestly didn’t love God’s Word or listen as closely to him. It is only later that God’s word became my only hope, and it was only then that God opened my ears to hear him speaking throughout the day. I hadn’t been attuned to his voice, hadn’t strained to hear it above the din in my life, but as I pored over the Bible in my pain, God opened my ears. And there I found an unexpected delight in fellowship with Christ through his word.



DELIVERED BY AFFLICTION- HOW TRIALS AWAKEN US TO GOD

Vaneetha Rendall Risner - DesiringGod.org

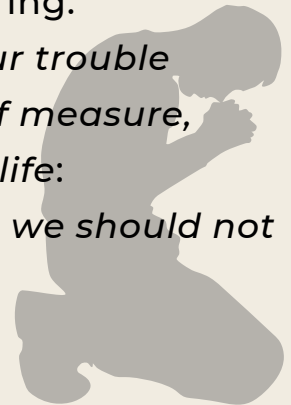
Delivered from Sin

Affliction makes us aware of our sins by bringing our buried struggles to light. When we are satisfied and self-sufficient, we won't see the hidden pride in our own abilities. But when life falls apart and we can't depend on ourselves anymore, we learn to cling to God. Paul underscores this dynamic through his own suffering:

8 For we would not, brethren, have you ignorant of our trouble which came to us in Asia, that we were pressed out of measure, above strength, insomuch that we despaired even of life:

9 But we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God which raiseth the dead:

(2 Corinthians 1:8-9).



When despair sets in and we feel burdened beyond ourselves, **reliance on God takes on a new meaning**. And when he has rescued us from a horrifying situation, we learn to trust him more in the next trial. After we have seen for ourselves that our God — who owns the cattle on a thousand hills, who spoke the world into existence, and who raises the dead — is able to deliver us from any situation, we shift our focus from relying on our own abilities to relying on him. God has taught me to depend on him through suffering. I once loved being self-sufficient, proud that I could care of myself without needing help from anyone. Yet with post-polio syndrome, I am losing the ability to care for myself, which has been agonizing from a worldly perspective, but abundantly fruitful from a spiritual one. I have asked God for more physical strength — and at times he has granted it. But at other times he has demonstrated that **his power is made perfect in my weakness** (2 Corinthians 12:9).

DELIVERED BY AFFLICTION- HOW TRIALS AWAKEN US TO GOD

Vaneetha Rendall Risner - DesiringGod.org

God has refined me in the furnace of affliction, softening the rough edges that I wouldn't have discovered without the fire. On difficult days, I see how self-focused, demanding, and impatient I can be, but God is teaching me patience and a daily, often moment-by-moment reliance on him. Suffering, just like discipline, is never pleasant at the time, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness. Our suffering will not be wasted — it produces a lasting endurance and character and hope (Romans 5:2-5).

Delivered from Loving the World

Affliction makes us long for heaven as we become increasingly aware that this world is not our home. When our dreams are broken, it's harder to be like Demas, in love with the present world (2 Timothy 4:10), and it becomes easier to heed John's admonition not to love the world or the things in it (1 John 2:15). Our suffering will make heaven even more glorious for us and will increase our eternal joy as we glimpse what God accomplished through it.

When I was in my late teens and early twenties, I didn't want Jesus to return soon — I was having too much earthly fun and didn't think about heaven at all. My first yearning for heaven came after my son, Paul, died, when I longed to see him again. I'm still excited to see him in heaven, but I realize there is so much more awaiting me there than seeing my loved ones.

The greatest joy of heaven will be seeing the glory of God in the face of Jesus (2 Corinthians 4:6). That will make everything in our lives, even our present suffering, pale in comparison.

DELIVERED BY AFFLICTION- HOW TRIALS AWAKEN US TO GOD

Vaneetha Rendall Risner - DesiringGod.org

**Not only is our pain not worth comparing with the joys of
heaven, it is also preparing us for it.**

(Romans 8:18, 2 Corinthians 4:17)

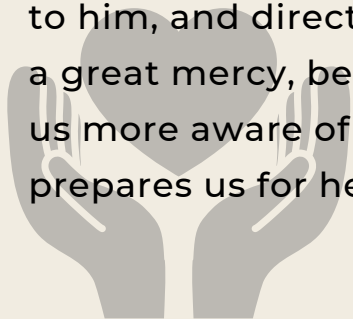
This isn't to minimize our present suffering, which can feel monumental, but to encourage us in the joy that's coming.

Mercy Greater Than Deliverance

While God delivers the afflicted by their affliction, not everyone turns to God in pain, for both Satan and God have purposes in affliction.

Satan uses suffering to turn people from faith and convince them that God is indifferent to their deepest struggles. Some demand that God remove their suffering, and when he doesn't, they become disillusioned and turn away. Others blame God for all the pain in the world and see suffering as a justification for their faithlessness. None of these responses will enable us to see God's blessings in suffering, but only the painful loss. *"Evil shall slay the wicked: and they that hate the righteous shall be desolate."* (Psalm 34:21), because Satan uses affliction to bring disillusionment and doubt, to deconstruct our faith and to ultimately destroy us.

Thankfully, God has life-giving purposes in affliction as we turn to him. In the hands of our loving God, affliction rescues his people from evil. God uses affliction to deliver us, deepen our faith, drive us to him, and direct our paths. While being delivered from affliction is a great mercy, being delivered by affliction is a greater one. It makes us more aware of God's voice, increases our reliance on him, and prepares us for heaven and a weight of glory beyond all comparison.



Come unto me,
all ye that labour
and are heavy laden,
and I will give you rest.

Matthew 11:28

