

HOW TO BE AN OVERCOMER

(I Peter 5: 10; James 4:7; Psalm 92)

The suffering of the saints is not something that happens by accident neither is to be regarded as in vain. Rather it requires a personal search of the heart to be allied in the right position with God, and to understand the perfect will of God. The sufferings that are inflicted on the Believer because of their faith in Yahshua are without a question, the most honored way of suffering. Yahshua said, blessed and happy is and enviably fortunate and spiritually prosperous are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven! Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and say all kinds of evil things against you falsely on My account. Be glad and supremely joyful for your reward is great, for in this same way people persecuted the prophets who were before you (Matthew 5: 10-12).

Paul expressed well when in face of his persecution said, For I hold myself in readiness not only to be arrested and bound and imprisoned at Jerusalem but also to die for the name of the Lord Jesus, and Except that the Holy Spirit clearly and emphatically affirms to me in city after city that imprisonment and suffering await me, but none of these things move me; neither do I esteem my life dear to myself, if only I may finish my course with joy and the ministry which I have obtained from the Lord Jesus, faithfully to attest to the good news of God's grace (Acts 20:23-24; 21:13). He endured many persecutions and died as a martyr for Christ. At the end of his life he said, I am already about to be sacrificed; the time of my release is at hand and I will soon go free. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith, henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me and recompense me on that day- and not to me only, but also to all those who have loved and yearned for and welcomed His appearing (II Timothy 4:6-8). There are many brothers and sisters all over the world today suffering great persecution. They have showed remarkable faith and strength and have counted a privilege to suffer for our Lord. They are teaching us how to persevere in faith by their faithfulness in suffering.

The sufferings that Job endured served well for the glory of God because he maintained faithful to God and in the end, he was blessed as the book of Job concludes, And the Lord blessed the latter days of Job more than his beginning. . . And after this Job lived 140 years, and saw his sons and his sons' sons' even to four generation (Job 42:12-17). There is something very special in the lives of those who are alienated from the things of the world, who have embraced the eternal cause, and have reached to the most excellent purpose- to serve God. They suffer with a smile and humbleness of heart; they do not consider themselves to be above the will of God, in bad times. They are the true lovers of God, the true faithful ones and they are the true humble in spirit.

Peter teaches us how to persevere in our trials by being firm in the faith; because our trials are to perfect us. He said, After you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, Who has called you to His eternal glory in Christ Jesus, will Himself **complete and make you what you out to be, establish and ground you securely and strengthen and settle you (I Peter 5:10)**. And as

Paul said in Philippians 1:6, And I am convinced and sure of this very thing, that He Who began a good work in you will **continue** until the day of Jesus Christ, **developing** and **perfecting** and **bringing it to full completion** in you, and that means to me that we, His Bride, have to go through a lot of suffering for the completion of God's work of perfecting us. The righteous are then, even in their suffering firmly fixed in the presence of the Lord; there they flourish bearing fruit continuously, fruit of trust, love and contentment; they live to reflect God's faithfulness in His promise as their lives are completely absorbed by the light that comes from Him. They will be the ones who will worshipfully fear Him and the Lord will say, They shall be mine, in that day when I publicly recognize and openly declare them to be my Jewels and I will spare them, as a man spares his own son who serves him (Malachi 3:16-18).

The suffering of the saints is also for the purpose of correction, as we read in Psalm 119: 67,71, It is good for me that I have been afflicted, that I might learn Your statutes; Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now Your word do I keep. Enduring the time of trials with the understanding of the Word of God, helps us to overcome it victoriously, for there we also find wonderful words of comfort and of encouragement as we read in the letter to Hebrews 12:3: Just think of Him Who endured from sinners such grievous opposition and bitter hostility against Himself, so that you may not grow weary or exhausted, losing heart and relaxing and fainting in your minds (12:3). In your trial, just think of His suffering for you; constantly keep in mind Jesus Christ; persevere and stand your ground with patience and endure everything, for if we endure, we shall also reign with Him (II Timothy 2:8,10,12); in your trial remember the words of Paul in I Corinthians 10:13: For no temptation has overtaken you and laid hold on you that is not common to man, but God is faithful, and He [can be trusted] not to let you to be tempted beyond your ability and strength of resistance and power to endure, but with the temptation He will also provide the way out, that you may be capable and strong and powerful to bear up under it patiently. These are very powerful words and powerful promises for us to live by while going through our trials.

The overcomer has the goal of reaching his destiny which is heaven, knowing that no suffering in this space of time on earth will keep him from getting there, only that he must share in the suffering with Christ, if it is for him to share in His glory. He will hear the welcome words of the Savior, Well done, My faithful servant! Whatever we must suffer here on earth, it will never compare with the suffering He went through for us. One life we have, with joy we must give it to Him, to receive His gift of eternity with Him.

THINK ABOUT IT!

I am Jacinta for Light from the Word Ministry