

THE EVERLASTING WEIGHT OF GLORY



(II Cor. 4:17-18)

Since we consider and look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen; for the things that are visible are temporal, but the things that are invisible are deathless and everlasting (II Cor.18). Guided by faith in YAHSHUA and in His promises, sufferings are but a short breath in this earthly life. It is nothing to fret about when our focus is on heaven, our future home for which we groan with expectation. Sufferings are necessary in this earthly life, because the glory which will be revealed to us is measured by the intensity of our sufferings here. As someone has said, suffering is the precursor of glory. The Apostle Paul, the writer of this letter, well understood what sufferings were all about, since he

experienced all kinds of degrees of suffering. His written words of comfort and hope came from the heart under the direction of the Holy Spirit for that time when we all have to go through our own suffering. So in the midst of our sufferings it is good to re-direct our mind to heaven. That will be to us a refreshing time of renewal of our faith, since faith regulates the believers walk, leading them upward where our Lord YAHSHUA is seated at the right hand of the Father.

Paul said, Therefore we do not become discouraged though our outer man is decaying and wasting away, yet our inner self is being renewed day after day, for our light, momentary affliction is ever more and more abundantly preparing and producing and achieving for us an everlasting weigh of glory [*beyond all measure, excessively surpassing all comparisons and all calculations, a vast and transcendent glory and blessedness never to cease!*]. As Paul has said, while we are clothed with our human body, which is our temporary tent of existence on this earth, we groan and sigh, desiring to be clothed with our everlasting and heavenly clothing, awaiting the glory that will be revealed in us. Putting sufferings in perspective, in comparison with the weight of glory which is eternal, suffering is really light, because it is temporal. Nothing in this earth is eternal, thank God for that.

What does the weight of glory mean to us believers? It means heavenly eternal splendor measured in its eternal estate- forever, while suffering is earthly temporal, it is short in its duration of time. Paul then defines glory in weight and sufferings in lightness. In many ways, suffering keep us focused on our eternal home, and helps us to let go of the earthly things which cannot be digested spiritually. When the believer is tuned to the godly and heavenly waves, we will be able to digest God's Word through untainted faith. We will understand that suffering is part of our spiritual growth and the road to sanctification, and ultimately, to glorification. He Who justifies us is now sanctifying us continuously unto the day when He will glorify us, or [raise us to a heavenly dignity and conditions or state of being]. Paul says that only in sharing His suffering we will share His glory. He also concluded that the sufferings of this present time are not worth being compared with the glory that is about to be revealed to us and in us and for us and conferred on us (Rom. 8: 17-18). When in suffering, let's remember the eternal hope of glory and exercise patience and endurance; let's remember its earthly temporary existence in the frame of time.

Our earthen vessel is an instrument to show forth God's faithfulness, love and all the rest of His attributes. Our trifling difficulties are just for a moment. They are not the emphasis of our life, but an entrance to the glory of God. Suffering is a silent teacher, spreading its wings upward, rewarding us with the eternal gift of our future glory from one degree of glory to another, until we become just like YAHSHUA, when we see Him face to face. Then and afterwards, there will be no remembrance of suffering, only joy in His presence forever more. Peter said, [You should] be exceedingly glad on this account, though now for a little while you may be distressed by trials and suffer temptations, that [the genuineness] of your faith may be tested, which is infinitely more precious than the perishable gold which is tested and purified by fire to redound to [your] praise and glory and honor when YAHSHUA the Messiah is revealed (I Peter 1:6-7). Suffering teaches us endurance, compassion for others, understanding for others, it compels us to prayer for others, it connects us to heaven, it humbles us to obedience, and it produces in us an "everlasting weight of glory." The more we suffer, the heavier the weight of glory that will be conferred to us. Having this in mind, Paul instructs us to rejoice in suffering.

The degree of glory we experience is based on the degree of suffering. Suffering should be for the believer a step forward into the glory God has prepared for us. For suffering is a refiner of the soul, the conductor of God's strength, the sparkle of our faith, leading others to Christ, suffering is "not my will, but Your will, will be done." When YAHSHUA completed the task of suffering for us, God highly exalted Him the name that is above every name, that in the name of YAHSHUA every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess and acknowledge that YAHSHUA Messiah is YAHWEH –Lord, to the glory of God the Father (Phil. 2:9-11). That does not mean that we will be exalted as the Son of God was, of course, but that we will be glorified in Him at the end of life as we know it. The weight of glory to be revealed to us is worth going through whatever trials and sufferings that come our way. In this school of life, suffering is the best teacher in maturing and preparing us for things to come in the earthly and in the heavenly futures. In the world we will have tribulation, trials, and sufferings of all kinds, but YAHSHUA encouraged us by saying, Be of good cheer, I have overcome the world (John 16:33). YAHSHUA has deprived the world of power over every believer; He has covered him with His mantle of salvation and

no suffering in trials will take away the weight of glory prepared for him. He has conquered the world for us and through Him the believer has also conquered it.

We encourage all of us to look at sufferings from a different angle. There are many angles of sufferings we concentrate on, but the only angle that will help us to victory is the angle that leads to God's blessed promise: **For our light, momentary affliction is ever more and more abundantly preparing and producing and achieving for us an everlasting weight of glory** (II Cor. 4:17) and just think of Him Who endured from sinners such grievous opposition and bitter hostility against Himself, so that you may not grow weary and exhausted, losing heart and relaxing and fainting in your minds, so then, brace up and reinvigorate and set right your slackened and weakened and drooping hands and strengthen your feeble and palsied and tottering knees (Heb. 12:3,12), for He Who promised is faithful to the very end. He is mindful of what we are going through and in time we will be rewarded with the weight of glory reserved for us if we remain faithful to Him in our trials. God's goodness is ever present in time of suffering, sustaining and energizing us through faith, as Paul has said, when I am weak, He is strong in me. What more do we need? Arise and shine, my friend, arise [from the depression and prostration in which circumstances have kept you – rise to a new life]! (Be radiant with the glory of the Lord), for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you (Isaiah 60:1), for the unseen things are eternal- the weight of glory prepared for you.