

An opportunity for importunity

There is victory in Jesus! There is joy in the life of a believer regardless of what we are experiencing. There are deep truths and precious promises that far outweigh our troubles and difficulties. Yet we are surprised when various trials come upon us as if they are to be something foreign to a child of God (1 Peter 4:12). Recall what the Lord said to the serpent in

Gen 3:15 And I will make enemies Of you and the woman, And of your offspring and her Descendant; He shall bruise you on the head, And you shall bruise Him on the heel."

Such trials are none other than the bruising of the heel that was promised. Much like Jacob to Esau, the devil tries to take what is not his by deception. Trying to remove the blessing of God and substituting something worthless. A birthright for a bowl of soup! Yet in God's sovereignty, he works such things together for our good and His glory because as the same words of Genesis remind us, The devil is the one who is crushed or shaken off like the term bruising of the head can also mean. He will be shaken off as a snake who bites a person's heel but those who are in Christ will never be shaken, however, they(we) can be deceived. There is such a need for discernment in the mind of a believer, as we walk in this world we are bombarded with counterfeit and find very little gold.

Panning for gold

Gold is a precious commodity as it is costly to extract from the earth. "each ounce of gold recovered requires the processing of about 100,000 ounces of ore". God's word is like this. His doctrines are pure and precious but may be mixed with a lot of falsehood. Our life experiences may also be like this as we wade through the ore of life to hold fast to that which is precious.

Jer 15:16 Your words were found and I ate them, And Your words became a joy to me and the delight of my heart; For I have been called by Your name, LORD God of armies.

Jer 15:17 I did not sit in a circle of revelers and celebrate. Because of Your hand *upon me* I sat alone, For You filled me with indignation.

Jer 15:18 Why has my pain been endless And my wound incurable, refusing to be healed? Will You indeed be to me like a deceptive stream With water that is unreliable?

Jer 15:19 Therefore, this is what the LORD says: "**If you return**, then I will **restore** you— You will stand before Me (abide in me); And **if you extract the precious from the worthless, You will become My spokesman.** They, for their part, may turn to you, But as for you, you are not to turn to them.

We need to repent when we call God's wisdom to account, as Jerimiah did. He is saying in verse 18 that the living water is deceiving and unreliable. How can Jerimiah continue to be a prophet of the Lord when he is questioning the very words God is giving Him to say? Consider ourselves, when we are in unbelief how can we speak the truth?

"It is astonishing how much adversity and disappointment men can bear when they are thinking of another or others, and how little when thinking of themselves."

As a bondservant of God, we abide in Him. In the face of Christ in the light of the truth but when we slip and start exalting ourselves (pity ourselves or play the victim), we fall into darkness. What was a comfort ceases to comfort because we begin to look for something else.

Rom 8:37 But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us.

We are amid difficult times

If we do not extract the precious from the worthless, we no longer are servants of God but servants of ourselves.

2Ti 3:1 But realize this, that in the last days **difficult times will come.**

2Ti 3:2 For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, slanderers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy,

2Ti 3:3 unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good,

2Ti 3:4 treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God,

2Ti 3:5 holding to a form of godliness although **they have denied its power**; avoid *such people as* these.

How much we deny when we seek to serve ourselves. That God loves us, that He will never leave us nor forsake us, that His ways are best right and true. That He will supply all our needs in Christ Jesus! Ultimately we deny His work on the cross!

What we may feel sorrowful for may be a counterfeit of Godly sorrow

We can be blinded by our arguments that keep us in darkness to the truth. The worthlessness of building our own kingdom versus the preciousness of knowing that we will receive a kingdom that cannot be shaken.

2Co 10:5 *We are* destroying arguments and all arrogance raised against the knowledge of God, and *we are* taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ,

Let us mourn over that which keeps us from holding fast to the truth!

Jas 4:7 Submit therefore to God. But resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

Jas 4:8 Come close to God and He will come close to you. Cleanse *your* hands, you sinners; and purify *your* hearts, you double-minded.

Jas 4:9 Be miserable, and **mourn**, and weep; let your laughter be turned into mourning, and your joy into gloom.

Jas 4:10 **Humble** yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you.

Mat 5:4 "Blessed are those who **mourn**, for they will be comforted.

Praying we might see clearly

Fears assail us when we direct our thoughts inward but comfort and confidence when we see the working of God. (The power of God)

2Ki 6:15 Now when the attendant of the man of God had risen early and gone out, behold, an army with horses and chariots was circling the city. And his servant said to him, "**This is hopeless, my master! What are we to do?**"

2Ki 6:16 And he said, "Do not be afraid, for those who are with us are greater than those who are with them."

2Ki 6:17 Then Elisha prayed and said, "LORD, please, **open his eyes so that he may see.**" And the LORD opened the servant's eyes, and he saw; and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

Eph 1:17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the **knowledge** of Him.

Eph 1:18 *I pray that* the **eyes of your heart** may be enlightened so that **you will know** what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,

Eph 1:19 and what is the boundless greatness of **His power** toward us who believe. *These are* in accordance with the working of **the strength of His might**

What all this amounts to is dealing with unbelief. Notice prayer is how we combat this. It is a gift from the Lord. Pray without ceasing for the battle is real but the victory is definite.

Extract the precious!

Rom 16:17 Now I urge you, brothers *and sisters*, keep your eye on those who cause dissensions and hindrances contrary to the teaching which you learned, and turn away from them.

Rom 16:18 For such people are slaves, not of our Lord Christ but of their appetites; and by their smooth and flattering speech they deceive the hearts of the unsuspecting.

Rom 16:19 For the report of your obedience has reached everyone; therefore I am rejoicing over you, but I want you to be wise in what is good, and innocent in what is evil.

Rom 16:20 The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet.
The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you.