

The Truth about Adversity

“Strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting them to continue in the faith, and saying “We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God.” – Acts 14:22

Without question, the greatest life there is to live is the Christian life. Why? Because God takes a life that was empty, aimless, and worst of all, headed to a certain judgment and turns it around and transform it. He gives forgives us of all our sin. And if that wasn't enough, He places the righteousness of Christ into our spiritual bank account.

He removes out guilt, fills the void in our lives, and literally takes residence inside of us. And most importantly, He changes our eternal address from a place called Hell to a place called Heaven.

While it's true that God removes a lot of problems we once had, a new set of problems re-places them. Because the day we put our trust in Jesus Christ, we enter into a battle. That is why the apostle Paul said, “Endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ” (2 Tim. 2:3).

The problem is that some have believed in what we might describe as a watered-down gospel, one that promises forgiveness but rarely tells people of the need to repent of their sins, one that promises peace but never warns of persecution, one that says God wants us to be healthy and wealthy and never have any problems to speak of. But that isn't the gospel of the New Testament. We can't take a vacation from human suffering and tragedy.

I am not suggesting that God wants us to be sick, poor, and miserable. I am not even saying that God doesn't want us to be happy, because I believe happiness will come as we truly follow the Lord. But it's a fringe benefit. The essence of the Christian life is knowing God and walking with Him. And God, despite the worst tragedy, can bring good out of bad.

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