

# Persecution, Affliction, and Tribulation

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## Deeper Walking With God

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Change of Voice:

Thank you. Thank you fore the lovely hymns. *Nearer, Still Nearer*, oh, I love that hymn. "Draw me, my Savior, so precious thou art." Isn't that wonderful?

I do bless God for the lovely hymns of our faith. I cannot thank you enough for the way you sing. I cannot tell you the grief that comes into me when I witness that there are churches that sing modern hymns and modern things. I know their hearts. They mean well. But I fear we bury our inheritance that we have inherited from revival when blood flowed. Those hymns of the faith, brethren, that we sing and the way you sing it, oh, it is beautiful. Don't ever, ever, ever, ever leave them. It is so nice to start, you know, the next thing you have swallowed up with modern shallow emotional words that are so superficial without the depth of the old hymns. Oh, I bless God you are holding on. Don't let go now. Don't follow the rest of the Church.

One man will agree.

In my old age I am looking for something, not to sing now, to sing at the end. I was supposed to do this, but I want to see if it is in here. Yes. I thought of doing this down there, but I didn't have a hymn book.

Remind me, brothers, there is a hymn to sing in case I forget about that at the end. Oh, [?] terrible word in our language. [?] sermons work out that what means, what that means. [?].

This is a little newsletter my wife sends out. She does so much for me. Without my wife I would just think. I would just roll up in a little ball and die. Trust me, that is not exaggeration. I don't know, brother, if you can survive without your wife, but there is no hope for this man without my wife. I am half a man without her. I don't think people

realize that, but I am totally half a man without Jenny beside me. But she does this also, plus every other thing apart from the preaching. And believe me she has got quite a time.

But this little letter that she sends out, I think a lot of you do get it and I do thank for that. I thank you for the consciousness. I have a prayer being lifted up all over America when I come here and even overseas and back in our country. I just sense God has got people praying. I just sense God sweeping into circumstances. And I know people are praying.

Please don't stop to pray for this poor man. Trust me, there is no preacher on earth that needs prayer as much as this poor man. Trust me. I so need it. You could do no singular favors to me more than to just pray for my children, for my darling wife. Don't let her ever get discouraged, God, and please don't let the boys ever be hurt by the devil. [?] let Roy, Samuel love Christ even though most of their life they didn't have a father. Won't you just pray, please, for my boys?

I shall die if the devil gets hold of my boys. Trust me about that. I am not strong enough to survive that. Please pray that God protects them.

So now if you don't receive the newsletter to know just how to pray soberly and you really are a prayer warrior, please don't just put your name and address down for a piece of paper it will just become junk mail. But if you agonize on your knees for souls and you grieve and groan before God for America to come to revival and you don't do that in the prayer meeting, you do it alone with no one but God watching, please, you are the one I will be so grateful for the privilege of having your name, your prayers. Please put your name and address down on a piece of paper. Somehow get it to me. It won't be difficult and if you would like to just take a copy to see what Jenny puts out, just how to pray, please do. I am going to leave it somewhere where you won't forget. There you are. There is only about 100, but I think most of you get it so it is just for those who don't.

Forgive me for coughing.

Thank you for letting me come to Charity and to the other church at Ephrata this morning. Thank you. Thank you so much for the lovely fellowship I have had in brother Denny and Jackie's, sister Jackie's home. Precious fellowship yesterday with Jerry and Jay, J A Y, not J A Y E. Wonderful testimony how God took him out of the military air force deeply spoken to by God and how he came and joined up with you, somehow God linking him up to find this place and home. Lovely to find a home, Jay. I wish I was a privileged as you to just be able to be here part of this lovely family. God bless you for it, for your lovely testimony, your lovely testimony, Jerry, what you went through. And I think a lot of [?] how does a man from the jungle say the right word?

Nonetheless, I think your testimony was precious, both of you brothers, Jerry and Jay, you have two amazing testimonies there, two amazing men of God in the making They are going to shake the powers of hell if you pray them through.

But the devil will try and destroy them, trust me. So you had better pray them through, brethren. They need you. They are too precious for Satan not to come in total onslaught to try and hurt. Thank you for the lovely fellowship I received in the home with brother Denny.

There are no words to tell you of my esteem of this dear man and his godly wife and the fruit of their godly marriage. So I am not going to try. I just thank you for them and thank you that I could have been in your home once again, spared by God again to come. Thank you for the way you trust me, dear brother. Don't ever throw me away, ok? I might not have a beard. I wish I did. Imagine not shaving. Oh, it would be lovely to be part of you. I hate shaving. And it is true, it wasn't meant. The world has become so strange. But I just happen to live in the part of the world if you do have a beard you are in trouble. Forgive me. I won't explain that, but trust me.

And not to wear a tie. Oh, I hate a tie. I loathe each time I put it on. Why did they ever do it, you know? But some pulpits won't let you in unless you have got it on and if you haven't most people will get up and walk out. They think you are irreverent. So there is such a different culture in the world. Forgive me, but don't throw me out because I am learning, ok? Have patience. Have patience. Don't close up to others who might not be 100 percent in line in every alphabet. The day you close your doors, brothers, to every single one out there, you will think of what God is doing. I am warning you out of love. Don't allow heresy. Don't allow compromise. But don't judge a man if he hasn't had your privileges and your background and this atmosphere to thrive in.

Love them and especially this poor, weak [?] man who cannot tell you how much it means to him to come to the home of this brother and other homes to embrace your fellowship and be trusted for you and prayed for by you. I do so respect what God is doing among you and have become conscious that you have become not raised up to reach the Mennonites, Amish, Hutterite. You think you are, you know, but, you know, God has raised you up to become the constants of the church of this land. You don't know it yet, but you already are. And as you grow God knows what is going to happen. Don't ever compromise. Don't ever compromise doctrinally or outwardly to the light you have been given. Don't ever close your heart [?] with compassion to those who haven't had your privileges or [?] ok? Don't do it. You will miss what God is really raising you up for in case you think it is just the Mennonite, Hutterites. People are watching. Now be Christ like with the standard or you are going to fail God.

And Jesus looks past so much to all men.

Oh, forgive me, as an outsider coming in here and saying such things. I just covet God to do what I know he wants to do through you if you will just stay pure and lowly. And look at every one who differs with you with compassion, not with hatred.

And thank you also that I could have had that lovely meal in that lovely home today. Dean, lovely wife, lovely children and the lovely people in that home, too. We had precious, precious time together. Thank you.

Thank you also for those in Denny's home that ironed my shirts. Isn't that wonderful to have an ironed shirt. You won't know what that means. One day I will explain to you if you ask me. But it does look nice, doesn't it, and not just out of the tumble dryer, but bless the Lord of the lovely home.

I have marveled at the children in that home and right now I am looking at little Hannah and Esther and even the other little ones, David and Charles. Aren't they lovely? Oh, bless God for these wonderful, wonderful fruit of this home. Thank you for all you did to make my stay so wonderful and the lovely way Denny and Jackie and Hannah and Esther have organized this whole tour for me through America for eight weeks. Bless them and bless you and all your lovely people across the land have come to hear this poor man as the [?] I am. I am so privileged and I am so grateful and I don't know how much I will weep if I ever lose your trust and your love.

Now can we bow in prayer and I hope it is loud enough. I would like it to be just that loud, not to hear my voice, but somehow to be able to concentrate above every other thing so there is a lot of reasons I glare at you, brother. When it goes down slightly, you are in trouble. And in case you don't know it, this is a glare. Not that I need glasses, it is a glare.

Let's pray, please. Can we just bow before God in the silence of our hearts?

*Our wonder Father, thank thee of these three nights that I could have been with thy people here and this morning at the new church. Thank thee, God, for the privilege of being in this land that is not my land, but, I feel as much burden and love for it as I do for my own country. I thank thee for giving me that love for this land and bringing me here. I am so grateful, God. Bless and honor those who have had in their hearts and made such sacrifices to make me able to come to this land again and again and again and again, just so much of America already I am overwhelmed, Lord, and I thank thee for it. Bless and honor dear brother Denny and sister Jackie. And thank you for what they do that I can preach. God, I don't know how to do anything else. But thank thee others organize and get things done where I wouldn't know how to take the first step or say the first word to get it done. Bless the, Lord, for such people. Oh, protect this work that is begun in America. I have come to love them and respect them and revere them and treasure what they have got. And I ask thee to protect it all under the blood of Jesus. The devil would do anything to divide them. The devil will do anything to divert them, to trip them up that they could be branded as a sect and that men and women might even have true just cause to do that. Don't let it happen, God. Don't let them trip up in their zeal. Give them wisdom, lowliness and carefulness before they speak to each other, let alone to the outside world. Oh, God, give them wisdom that they have prayed through words that could turn the course of this whole movement in one moment backwards. Even if they are zealous doing it, God, reach out to bring such wisdom, such compassion and yet never compromise. And there is an ability to do that, God. Give them that ability, please, to protect them and to honor them and to use them in such a way that the world will tremble through them. I covet that revival may come to this land through them. For without*

*preaching, the message is cried out, the standard is being cried out and men are not being offended as much as they are, just crumbling in their hearts as they cannot argue. This is what I want, too.*

*God, please keep that testimony that doctrines will not be thrown against them, but their lives will just make men's words swallow it up and disappear and that all criticism and condemning would just disappear as words that will just fade out for there is nothing behind them. God, please, please protect them and the fruit of their ministry, the fruit of their ministers, the fruit of those who preach who are the fruit already of this movement. They are men that other denominations haven't seen to that degree in so many in a hundred years. Don't let them lose one of them. Don't let them destroy or condemn or forget to encourage in case they lose one of these great men thou hast given them, and women equally. For no man is a man of God that doesn't somehow normally, Lord, have a godly woman carrying him. He will never make it. Thank you of the women, their willingness to submit and to be just a complement to the whole message their husband preaches, a proof, an evidence. And the world sees the wife's joy and the children's joy. They must know this man is real. Oh, God, please bless the children, the wives, the godly preachers, the godly teachers, the godly examples. Don't let us lose them. Keep them from diverting from truth. God keep them from dividing. Keep them from contentious spirit. Keep them from those that would cause splits. God, keep them one in ability to submit and to submit to the elders, to submit and submit and submit as younger to all be subject one to another, to be clothed with humility. For God resisteth the proud and giveth grace unto the humble. God, give them that grace to give them that grace to be a submitting people to authority, to those that had care over them as elders and must be giving account of them one day as shepherds over the flock. Don't let those shepherds be hard and tyrannical, but Christ like and lowly and patient and yet holy.*

*Oh God, if ever America needed a people that were living the standard of this book and growing and blossoming, filled with compassion for all souls, it is now. And who knows. Perhaps with this moment thou hast been raised up, oh remnant.*

*Oh God, come in mercy now and hallow thy Word, thy sacred Word by anointing it, by anointing this poor man and washing me in the blood of Jesus, by anointing our hearts and our minds and quietening us into sacred ground. Come protect so under the blood of Jesus. Cleanse the atmosphere with the blood of Jesus. Make this holy, holy ground.*

*Oh fill me with the Holy Spirit and stand beside me, oh God, and use me as a mouthpiece through which your voice can be heard. In Jesus Christ's name, in Jesus the Christ's name, in Jesus Christ's name we all unitedly agree asking these things of our God, our Father in heaven. Amen.*

I would like for us tonight to look at three words in the Bible: persecution, affliction and tribulation. What is the difference, you may ask, between persecution, affliction and tribulation?

Well, let's look at the Scriptures. Let's look at the Scriptures, at what God says

concerning these three things. Firstly, persecution. All that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution. These staggering words are found in 2 Timothy three verse 12.

Isaiah prophesied in chapter 59 verse 15 that a time would come when he that departed from evil maketh himself a prey. In its context, Isaiah is prophesying about the gospel dispensation. He that departeth from evil maketh himself a prey. The margin says, "Would be accounted as mad."

I would say that the most accurate interpretation of this verse would read like this. That a time will come in the gospel dispensation and as a result of the gospel, that he that turns from evil, from a life of evil to a life of godliness, he that departeth from evil maketh himself a prey, would be persecuted. A time would come in the gospel dispensation that as a result of the gospel he that turns from a life of evil to a life of godliness would not only be accounted and treated as mad, he will be hunted, sought out to persecute.

Thirty years ago as a young Christian I don't that I was ever accepted or identified with this verse as being relevant to this age that you and I are living in with the Church. But, beloved, in the last 30 years something has happened in this world that has staggered me deeply. The avalanche of moral decadence and evil that has swept across the world affecting and swaying and conditioning the minds of the masses, the avalanche of moral decadence and evil that has swept across this world affecting and swaying and conditioning the minds of the masses to hate the good and love the evil. I have become deeply and fearfully aware that the stage has been set to usher in an era of unprecedented global persecution against all who will live godly in Christ Jesus, not against all that will profess to know Christ Jesus, but all that will live godly in Christ Jesus. There is a great difference.

I want us to carefully look before going on at these verses of Isaiah 59 verse 15 of what God is saying. It starts off with these words.

"Yea, truth faileth."

Let's look broader at the context.

"Yeah, truth faileth; and he that departeth from evil maketh himself a prey, would be accounted as mad, would be treated as mad. Yea, truth faileth."

There is coming a time when there will be a famine of the true Word of God. There will be a compromise on the true Word of God. In the pulpits worldwide, in the gospel dispensation where liberal theology will so be effecting even the evangelical church that truth will become failing. Truth faileth. It is there and being preached, but you are failing in your delivery of it. You are taking the cutting edge away. You are scared of offending so you are compromising. Truth faileth in this sign that will usher in and as a result of truth failing from the pulpits in the evangelical church.

This era of unprecedented global persecution will be ushered in as a result of truth failing. It will usher in an era of unprecedented global persecution against all that will live godly in Christ Jesus.

But there is something staggering about the context of this verse and I hope I am not going to offend you in America, but I cannot deny it, of what this is saying about the gospel dispensation. A moment will come in this dispensation when because truth fails from the pulpits in the liberal church, where liberal theology will be embraced and affect more and more what we preach, undermining and failing to preach what God intended us to preach, the standard God because of this.

He that departeth from evil maketh himself a prey. Something is being implied here. It is being implied that the persecution will begin in the church against those who would depart from evil to a life of godliness. Something has been ostracized within the true church. When a man, a woman departs from evil, he will be coming to a circumstance in the world and the church. You will be looked upon as mad, ostracized and persecuted, let alone what the world is going to do to you.

[?]. Yea, yea and all that will love godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution. The next verse, verse 13 says, “But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, evil men in this moment when there is such persecution that will godly. Evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, seducing and being seduced.”

Oh, being deceived and deceiving, deceiving and being deceived. Isn't that terrible? Evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse. Do you know what the word seducers means? Imposters, people who say they are Christians who are not Christians. They profess to know Christ, but they deny the power thereof. There is something of a denial of all that God demands of true salvation. But they imply they are born of God. They imply they are true Christians. Evil men and seducers, imposters shall wax worse and worse in this moment that will usher in, we are all, all, beloved, in revival when God sweeps through lands, through Wesleys, through Whitefields, through Jonathan Edwards, through Charles Finneys and they shall seek God and the multitudes begin to seek God and turn to Christ. The lands.

All who will live godly in Christ are not suffering. They do not suffer in the times of revival. They are esteemed by the masses. They are esteemed and treasured. They walk with God. They are teaching. Their standard is treasured and respected in times of revival.

But there is a time coming when truth faileth, that all that would dare to live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.

But Jesus said in Matthew five verse 10, “Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are ye when men shall revile you and shall persecute you and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely for

my sake. Rejoice and be exceeding glad for great is your reward in heaven, for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.”

But, beloved, we must be careful here. We must be so careful here. Jesus goes on. He goes on to warn us in verse 38.

“Ye have heard that it hath been said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth,’ but I say unto you that you resist not evil, but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also.”

Verse 43. “Ye have heard that it hath been said, ‘Thou shalt love thy neighbor and hate thine enemy,’ but I say unto you, love your enemies. Bless them that curse you. Do good to them that hate you. Pray for them which despitefully use you and persecute you.”

1 Peter 2:19. “For this is thankworthy if a man for conscience toward God endure grief, suffering wrongfully. For what glory is it if when you be buffeted for your faults you shall take it patiently. But if when you do well and suffer for it, you take it patiently. This is acceptable with God for even here unto were ye called because Christ also suffered for us leaving us an example that we should follow his steps who did no sin neither was guile found in his mouth, who when he was reviled, reviled not again. When he suffered he threatened not, but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously.”

1 Peter four verse 12. “Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ’s sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy. If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified. But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, or as an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men’s matters. Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf.”

Philippians one verse 29. “For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake.”

But I would like for us tonight to look at three words in the Bible: persecution, affliction and tribulation. What is the difference, you may ask, between persecution and affliction?

Well, let’s look at the Scriptures at what God says concerning affliction. In Psalm 34 verse 19 we read, “Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the LORD delivereth him out of them all.”

I am not a Pentecostal, you know, but I feel like shouting hallelujah to that.

“Many are the afflictions...”



Don't hide away from it. It is not heaven yet, brother. You are on earth. And heaven is coming. There will be no tears, no trials, not hurts. But if you are righteous in this world, many, God tells you, are the afflictions of the righteous. But the Lord delivereth him out of them all.

James says to us in chapter five verse 10, "Take, my brethren, the prophets, who have spoken in the name of the Lord, for an example of suffering affliction, and of patience. Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy."

Job is the only man that James refers to as an example of someone who suffered affliction in the Bible. So, beloved, let's look at Job. Let us look carefully at the life of Job. Let us look at the many afflictions of this righteous man Job.

There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was perfect and upright, and one that feared God, and eschewed evil. And there were born unto him seven sons and three daughters. His substance also was seven thousand sheep, and three thousand camels, and five hundred yoke of oxen, and five hundred she asses, and a very great household; so that this man was the greatest of all the men of the east.

And his sons went and feasted in their houses, every one his day; and sent and called for their three sisters to eat and to drink with them. And it was so, when the days of their feasting were gone about, that Job sent and sanctified them, and rose up early in the morning, and offered burnt offerings according to the number of them all: for Job said, It may be that my sons have sinned, and cursed God in their hearts. Thus did Job continually.

Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came also among them. And the LORD said unto Satan, Whence comest thou? Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it. And the LORD said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil? Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, Doth Job fear God for nought? Hast not thou made an hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side? thou hast blessed the work of his hands, and his substance is increased in the land. But put forth thine hand now, and touch all that he hath, and he will curse thee to thy face. And the LORD said unto Satan, Behold, all that he hath is in thy power; only upon himself put not forth thine hand. So Satan went forth from the presence of the LORD.

And there was a day when his sons and his daughters were eating and drinking wine in their eldest brother's house: And there came a messenger

unto Job, and said, The oxen were plowing, and the asses feeding beside them: And the Sabeans fell upon them, and took them away; yea, they have slain the servants with the edge of the sword; and I only am escaped alone to tell thee. While he was yet speaking, there came also another, and said, The fire of God is fallen from heaven, and hath burned up the sheep, and the servants, and consumed them; and I only am escaped alone to tell thee. While he was yet speaking, there came also another, and said, The Chaldeans made out three bands, and fell upon the camels, and have carried them away, yea, and slain the servants with the edge of the sword; and I only am escaped alone to tell thee. While he was yet speaking, there came also another, and said, Thy sons and thy daughters were eating and drinking wine in their eldest brother's house: And, behold, there came a great wind from the wilderness, and smote the four corners of the house, and it fell upon the young men, and they are dead; and I only am escaped alone to tell thee.

Then Job arose, and rent his mantle, and shaved his head, and fell down upon the ground, and worshipped, And said, Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD. In all this Job sinned not, nor charged God foolishly.

Again there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came also among them to present himself before the LORD. And the LORD said unto Satan, From whence comest thou? And Satan answered the LORD, and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it. And the LORD said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil? and still he holdeth fast his integrity, although thou movedst me against him, to destroy him without cause. And Satan answered the LORD, and said, Skin for skin, yea, all that a man hath will he give for his life. But put forth thine hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse thee to thy face. And the LORD said unto Satan, Behold, he is in thine hand; but save his life. So went Satan forth from the presence of the LORD, and smote Job with sore boils from the sole of his foot unto his crown. And he took him a potsherd to scrape himself withal; and he sat down among the ashes. Then said his wife unto him, Dost thou still retain thine integrity? curse God, and die. But he said unto her, Thou speakest as one of the foolish women speaketh. What? shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil? In all this did not Job sin with his lips.

Oh, beloved, 1 Peter five verse eight. "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: Whom resist

stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.”

Oh, beloved, Job was not the only man that lost all his material possessions in one moment. Job was not the only man that lost every single thing he had in life in one moment. I have stood with so many men who were millionaires who had wealth that in one moment they lost everything. They had nothing in life. In one moment. I have looked at these men with their hearts sunk in grief for them of they loved God, but I staggered as I saw those men lift their hands up to heaven and from their heart with tears coming down their face crying out, “The Lord gave and the Lord hath taken away. Blessed be the name of the Lord.”

I saw men in all these things sin not nor charge God foolishly when they lost everything and were suddenly in poverty.

Job is not the only man, beloved, that lost his all his children. I cannot tell you how many homes I have been and where suddenly all of them were gone, wiped out, bullets flying through young 20 year olds. Oh, I have seen homes upon homes where suddenly men and women were robbed of their children, godly men and women. I watched them and I wept. And, oh, they wept. I admit it, but the resignation staggered me as they cried out the words of Job from their heart, “The Lord gave, the Lord hath taken away. Blessed be the name of the Lord.” I saw in all these things they sinned not nor charged God foolishly. Job was not the only one, beloved, to suffer these afflictions that are accomplished in your presence, that are in the world. I have seen many men lose their health who were strapping and strong and capable suddenly dependent and crippled in life and sickness riddled their bodies in pain so excruciating. I watched them in their sufferings, these godly men, crying out from their hearts.

“Thou he slay me, yet will I trust him.”

Oh, Job in the midst of all of his sufferings cried out, “When he hath tried me, when he hath tried me I shall come forth as gold from the fire.”

1 Peter one verse six. “Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ.”

James says to us in chapter one verse two, “My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.”

And James goes on to cry out, to ask God compassionately in chapter five verse 13, “Is any among you afflicted?” he asks compassionately. And then he says three words. “Let him pray.” Not volumes about afflictions and what to do.

“Is any among you afflicted?” Then just three words and he drops the whole subject. “Let him pray.”

You see, beloved, afflictions more than anything else drive us into a life of ceaseless prayer, into the university level of the school of God which you will never reach if everything is well with you, if everything is heaven on earth. God will never have his way on your life. We are led into a life consumed in prayer, consumed in prayer into the university level in the school of God when we pray without ceasing. You would never ever know anything this side of heaven of that life, of that university level in the school of God if it wasn't for the afflictions. They drive us to the university in the whole school of God.

Do you stand out like a sore thumb? You are so refined and godly and Christ like that your ever step does damage to Satan's kingdom. If you let God have his way and his will in what he allows the devil to do, brother, you will be such a rebuke to the devil that he will be sorry he started.

But I would like for us tonight to look at three words in the Bible: persecution, affliction and tribulation.

What is the difference, you may ask, between persecution, affliction and tribulation? Well, persecution is the devil working through people to hurt us. Affliction is the devil working through circumstances to hurt us. And tribulation is the devil coming against us in total onslaught as Satan in despair looks and sees God's grace given to us, given to you and me to take us through triumphantly through any persecution he brings upon us, through any affliction he brings us in anger and desperation. He comes against us in total onslaught, in great tribulation.

The only time Paul ever spoke of tribulation in his life personally he said, “We despaired of life itself.”

Always we are not truthful preachers when we stand and say that Paul in his darkest moments just sang praises, you know. They put him in prison and at midnight they sang praises and the prisoners listened. Oh, we leave that as the norm.

Beloved, let me tell you, we are living something. There was a moment Paul didn't sing praises. He despaired of life itself. And, beloved, if Paul despaired of life you are not such a failure if you have ever despaired of life.

Let's look at the Scriptures at what God said concerning tribulation.

John 16 verse 33. Jesus said, “In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.”

What is Christ saying to us? “In the world ye shall have tribulation.”

It is true. You are going to come to a place with the terrible enemy in the war between God and Satan and all that he will be allowed to do in this world to prove you. It is true in this world you shall have tribulation. There will be times you will be driven to despairing of life. And though you are my child, but be of good cheer. Don't give up hope is what Jesus is saying. Don't you give up hope. Don't lose hope now. I have overcome the world.

You see, greater is he in that is in you, than he that is in the world. You think he has lost control when you are despairing of life? Do you think he has left you done? He is God.

I will never leave you nor forsake you. Lo, I am with you even to the end of the world. I will never suffer you to be tempted, tested, tried above that you are able...

We have so many promises, beloved.

In the world you shall have tribulation. It is going to happen, but be of good cheer. Don't you dare lose faith, child, in me. I have overcome the world. I overcome the world that I have left you in. But I haven't left you orphans who knows how to comfort us in all our tribulation, Paul said, who comforteth us with the comfort wherewith we may be able to comfort everyone who goes through the same things, when you go through it, for one reason, that you go through triumphantly, to make sure the one behind you is going to go through with what you can comfort him as God comforted you and he will never fail to comfort you, to send Titus in the midst of it all for God knows how to comfort them in tribulation, Paul says. He knows just want to do to send you away and he will never fail you.

Oh, my, you will think I am Pentecostal. I am going to shout it again. Hallelujah. I am not Pentecostal, Denny. I just believe the Word. And it thrills me that the assurances God gave.

Romans 12 verse 12, no, Acts 16 verse 33, Acts 14 verse 22.

"We must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God," Paul says.

That is just telling you, as it is he is not going to give you false hopes about you are going to have heaven and earth so he is telling you now.

Romans 12 verse 12. "Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer."

I like that. Three points for a lovely sermon. I am going to try it one day.

"Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer."

Oh, don't give up hope now.

Hope maketh not ashamed. Remember the word unto thy servant upon which thou has caused me to hope.

We have so many promises from God, beloved, but the hope of these promises we will not be ashamed no matter what God allows us to go through. With these promises that he has told us concerning what he is allowing us to go. He is saying, “Don’t you despair. Don’t think I have forsaken you. Don’t think you are on the failing end of the war.”

Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation, persevering in tribulation, continuing instant in prayer, devoted to prayer. Oh, just like affliction so tribulations lead us to one thing, the university in the school of God, to a life consumed in prayer which you and I would never ever find in our human ability with all the diversion there is in life unless God just allowed all these things and he knows just if need be, if need be. He knows how to bring you to the university level in the school of God, beloved. He hasn’t lost control. He is in control. Not the devil. He stands back and allows the devil to only that which will be for your good so long as you don’t lose sight of Jesus and his promises where faith comes from the Word of God. Don’t lose sight of the Word, of Christ’s promises or you will be ashamed. Don’t lose sight. Don’t lose sight. Don’t ever leave the book closed and you will have hope daily no matter what the devil brings on your way.

Rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer.

Oh, beloved, Jesus warns us. He tells us that a time will come in this earth when men’s hearts will fail them for fear of things that will come upon the world. I don’t think he means that we, as thy children, hearts will just fail them, not with this book, not with this God. After all he said to us, but a time will come, no doubt, to deny we are just a step when men’s hearts will fail them for fear.

Already look at the world. Is there anybody left whose heart isn’t failing them for fear of things that are coming in the world? Don’t go to the newspapers to read the most up date news. Just go to the Bible.

Friends, hearts are failing them right now for fear the moment you and I are stepping in, that we are in, of things that would come upon the earth.

Matthew 24 verse 21. “For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect’s sake those days shall be shortened.”

Hallelujah. That is not to put fear in their hearts, that is to say, “I won’t forsake you.”

Daniel confirms that in chapter 12 verse one. “And there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book of life.”

For the elect's sake, those days shall be shortened. I am not going to let you be devoured in your faith and forsake you. I will never leave you nor forsake you.

Oh, beloved, you might think I am a Calvinist. Don't worry. I am not. But I think some Calvinists would be ashamed at my trust in God that they don't have so much trust in his keeping power, in his faithfulness, in his promises that cannot fail that aren't held out to deny us or confuse us or make us look upon him as someone who fails us, promises that are held out to make you know that God has a holy obligation to these words now for you. He has perfect integrity. He cannot fail.

Oh, I love the Bible. I wish I could start another sermon tonight, but I will end with a verse that I am going to start up in some other town, another sermon. One of my most favorite, lovely, precious promises from my God to me, I am sure it is yours. Think about it. Romans eight verse 35.

“Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation?”

I want you to listen carefully. God is actually saying, “Do you honestly think that the great tribulation is going to make you have to fall away with those that have no real reality?”

“Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution?”

God is actually looking at you and me and saying, “Can you consider that I will leave you, that I will leave you orphans, that you can be full of fear, you know.”

It is not just [?] fear. The power of love of a sound mind.

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, circumstances the devil might create, famine, nakedness or peril? As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.

Oh, 60 million died for Christ's sake just through Rome. They cried out those words.

“We are slaughtered. We are counted as sheep fro the slaughter. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

I don't have to be a Calvinist to believe that. I believe it with all my heart.

I am persuaded. I have no shadow of a doubt, literal translation to our English language. I have no shadow of a doubt.

I am persuaded that neither death, if I have to face it, if I have to face death because I am a Christian, I am persuaded that neither death nor life if I have to live it. I wonder what is better for the world in the state it is coming to [?] life. Life is so futile. I don't know if you [?].

I am persuaded that death, neither death nor life nor angels nor principalities nor powers nor things present, America, nothing to come, America, nor height nor depth nor any other creature shall be able to separate us, children of Christ in America, the washed, blood bought family of God. Nothing of what the devil is going to bring on this world is going to separate me from the love of God. I am persuaded. I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.

Is it time, beloved, to preach in a way that man knows his responsibility and I preach it without any fear of being branded on some doctrinal standing because it is [?] that we have to preach God's responsibility and I preach it tonight because he has told me. Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivereth him out of them all. In this world ye shall have tribulation, but be of good cheer. I have overcome the world.

If you are not saved, oh, these words have no comfort for you. How can you open the door anymore in this world and walk out there without God? I don't know how it is possible. [?]

Great tribulation, then shall there be great tribulation such as never was. But for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.

Now, beloved, that means according to my simple mind we are going to face some of that tribulation. Some Christians say, "No. We will be taken away, though."

I don't... well, for the elect's sake, those days shall have to be shortened so that no flesh will be saved upon the earth unless those days should be shortened. And those days have to be shortened for the elect's sake. That means we are going to face some things. But don't face them with fear, beloved. You have one responsibility. Be absolutely surrendered to God when you are saved, walking with God in the light you have been given in holiness of life.

No compromise whether you stand in the pulpit or whether you walk through the world. And that is the result of loving God. This is the love of God that we keep his commandments. You never live that standard unless it is out of love for God, not for men, out of a fear for men. To be absolutely surrendered as I cried out, to be saved, you are saved. And don't you dare say it is Calvinistic for quoting the Scriptures. If you had faith when I quote all the other Scriptures that make me a Wesleyan Arminius, I just happen to love confusing the world, but don't you brand me now.



Oh, beloved, whatever God put in this book, you need it no matter what side of the fence you are. And so do I without being [?] my colors to some [?] that I can't [?] and then I would.

“What are you?” a man said to me.

I said, “I am glad you don't know.”

And they let me back in your country, brothers. I will never be ever deprived of the right to preach every verse in this book for your good when it is needed in its context. And both sides have great texts brother and sister and right now with what we are about to face, what I believe is coming, an era unprecedented. We are standing on the threshold. No matter what you say. Of ushering in an era of unprecedented global persecution against all who will live godly in Christ Jesus and that is why I cry out to you to take confidence, to have faith, but be right with God or I pity you.

There is the old Wesleyan coming back. And you can have such assurance, but it is all who will live godly [?] the afflictions of the righteous God is [?]. No matter what the devil brings, circumstantially, through people, through tribulation in the last time when there is total onslaught because his time is short and he is a terrible foe. Whatever he has got, you don't lose any faith. You don't live in any fear. And you won't. The peace of God that passeth all understanding will be in your eyes and other people walk with torment in their eyes and they look at God's people. Don't you have torment in your eyes for goodness' sake. Have peace that passes all understanding. Get alone with God every day when you are right with God and don't get up from your knees until all the hurry and he worry is gone, until all the fear is gone, until God's peace is flooding your hearts. And it will.

You don't read the newspaper as much as you read the Bible. Oh, one headline is enough to make you sick from fear. One page the other floods you with peace. It is more up to date.

We have a wonderful God, brethren. I believe you will face whatever comes if you are totally surrendered to God and filled with the Holy Spirit and living in a consistent daily walk with God where you never neglect the quiet time for anything or anyone. You consume your life in prayer. You consume yourself in the Word of God as your greatest love in life. Blessed is the man whose delight is in the law of the Lord. Nothing shall offend him whatever comes. You will be offended if this isn't your delight. Not a delight, the delight.

If God is first, if God is foremost, if God is everything, you don't neglect the other things that have to be done. You do them well. Far better than a man who is so busy he is trying to do things he hasn't got time for God.

If you give God the rightful place in your life, you are absolutely surrendered. There is no compromise. You will give it over. You will fear in the Spirit, control by the Spirit. You

will walk with God. You will soak yourself in the Word. You soak yourself in prayer and God knows how to drive you there if you are righteous. It is the righteous that these things come upon that bring out Christ. And you will have peace that passes all understanding while this world crumbles. And, thank God, the world will still be able to look before God takes us and say, "I want what you have got, but you need to be absolutely surrendered."

A woman walked up to me when I preached this sermon in South Africa and she said at the door, "So you don't believe in the possibility of revival."

I was so shaken, I just walked away from her. After all I preached that she should fill out that. Oh, yes, I believe in revival. But I am going to shock you now, Christians of America. I believe revival will come not of our considering it is time to now seek God, but through persecution, through tribulation. There is going to be coming a purifying of God's people, a seeking by God's people for vital reality to survive what is coming. And, as a result, while the Holy Spirit is still in this world working through us in our godliness and through our prayers, there is going to be awakenings, not world wide as some people through out... I would love to believe that, but wherever God's people get right, the effect, the awakening, the masses.

Beloved, how to put us in line and be balanced about what comes with all that God says will come just before he comes is terrible things and what God will do to his people and through his people when revival comes through persecution, through the refining that are somehow attached to whatever God allows in sufferings. There is something in the heart of God, if it is needed and [?] it is needed right now for the Church.

When it comes it won't be God making a mistake and losing control, it will be just that amount of time that is needed to send revival, to get us right with God. Are you praying for revival? I believe it is coming. Yes, but in a way you and I, perhaps, aren't used to, to the Jonathan Edwards that pray through and through. God swept down. Maybe there is no one left that will unless God comes.

I mean, be honest. How many of you started praying for the world, for the Muslim world only since your skin was at stake and you realized we have got troubles with them?

How does God get us to really be all we ought to be even in our prayers? By reading books on revival anymore? No, beloved. Oh, America, revival will come and it has to begin at God's people, but I believe it is coming through unprecedented, global persecution. And right on the door, you talk about this has to happen and that has to happen. You are probably right, brother. I am just not sure about all those other things that we say have to happen, you know, in order. I do know one thing. I do know one thing. I will be burying my head in the sand if I don't know right now we are stepping right into unprecedented global persecution that God is going to allow it. Revival is going to come to his people who are real, who want reality. There is going to come a refining, a seeking, a willing for anything, even death. There is going to come a building up of faith,

solidness and braveness and courageousness we don't have yet, but it is going to come. Watch how it just flares when God comes.

And we are not going to walk out there in fear, but in godliness in holiness of life. [?] yes. In circumstances, perhaps, beginning in a so-called churches, yes, but the true children of God revived. Oh, beloved, this isn't to put fear in your heart. This is to put your fear in your hearts in one thing that I am not right with God. You are safe if you are right with God. Are you?

You have all got hymn books. Turn slowly, carefully without speaking to each other please. In a sacred moment, 835.