

Crushed and Poured Out
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One of the promises that God makes to those of us who are His children is that there will be suffering along the way.

1 Peter 4:12-13

12 Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you:

13 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.

1 Peter 4:19 Wherefore let them that suffer according to the will of God commit the keeping of their souls *to him* in well doing, as unto a faithful Creator.

There is most definitely suffering that is according to the will of God.

Suffering comes in many forms and for many different reasons; sometimes suffering comes as chastening, which God's Word promises that all believers will undergo.

Hebrews 12:1-11

1 Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset *us*, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,

2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of *our* faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

3 For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.

4 Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin.

5 And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him:

6 For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.

7 If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?

8 But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons.

9 Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected *us*, and we gave *them* reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live?

10 For they verily for a few days chastened *us* after their own pleasure; but he for *our* profit, that *we* might be partakers of his holiness.

11 Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.

I am amazed sometimes at how backward and how foolish we sometimes think. Some of you older folks like me came from parents who went through the great depression.

My dad worked painfully hard all his life and had so with very little to show for it. Only in his final years did he come to understand who he should have been serving all along.

His hope that I heard him express many times was that his children would not have to work hard like he did. Thus, many of my generation were ruined by parents that were long on good intentions but short on understanding.

Hard work and yes, even some suffering, are meant to be a part of our lives; they are not our enemy.

Undisciplined children who are not taught to work rarely grow up to make the world a better place.

One such undisciplined child in the Bible was named Moab.

Moab was the illegitimate son/grandson of Abraham's nephew Lot. [If you are wondering how he can be his son and his grandson, you'll find out shortly]. When Lot escaped the destruction of Sodom with only his two daughters, a new kind of destruction began.

They find themselves living in a cave, perhaps thinking they were the only survivors left in the world. At any rate, Genesis 19 tells us what they did:

Genesis 19:30-37

30 And Lot went up out of Zoar, and dwelt in the mountain, and his two daughters with him; for he feared to dwell in Zoar: and he dwelt in a cave, he and his two daughters.

31 And the firstborn said unto the younger, Our father *is* old, and *there is* not a man in the earth to come in unto us after the manner of all the earth:

32 Come, let us make our father drink wine, and we will lie with him, that we may preserve seed of our father.

33 And they made their father drink wine that night: and the firstborn went in, and lay with her father; and he perceived not when she lay down, nor when she arose.

34 And it came to pass on the morrow, that the firstborn said unto the younger, Behold, I lay yesternight with my father: let us make him drink wine this night also; and go thou in, *and* lie with him, that we may preserve seed of our father.

35 And they made their father drink wine that night also: and the younger arose, and lay with him; and he perceived not when she lay down, nor when she arose.

36 Thus were both the daughters of Lot with child by their father.

37 And the firstborn bore a son, and called his name Moab: the same *is* the father of the Moabites unto this day.

This boy was raised without rules or discipline and grew up to become the Father of a vile and evil nation that worshipped the demon god Chemosh.

Jeremiah 48:11 Moab hath been at ease from his youth, and he hath settled on his lees, and hath not been emptied from vessel to vessel, neither hath he gone into captivity: therefore his taste remained in him, and his scent is not changed.

I was going to ask, “How many of you have some things in your life that you would really like to change”? A better question might be, “How many have things in your life that really need to change”?

Every honest person in the building would answer yes.

Some of you suffer from various addictions. Others deal with different besetting sins. Sin has cursed all of our lives in one way or another; and yes, we really need to change.

Then why don't we? Just don't drink anymore.

Just stop smoking. Just don't go to those places ever again. Just quit gossiping and lying and over-eating and a thousand other faults and failures that curse our lives every day.

When we become so sick of our sin; when we pour out our soul over some of these things to the Lord; sometimes God will step in and simply free us by way of a literal miracle. Oh, yes, He can do it; this I know for a fact.

It is like Jesus' first recorded miracle when He turned the water into wine at the Cana wedding. But this is not how good wine is usually made.

Here in Jeremiah, God draws a parallel between the making of good wine and the development of a pleasing and profitable servant of the Lord.

When the grapes are crushed; (that sounds painful, doesn't it?) the skins and the flesh and the seeds of the grapes settle to the bottom of the vessel. These dregs, if you will, are called “lees”. The taste and the scent, which represent the quality of the wine becomes changed each time the wine is allowed to settle and is then poured off into another vessel leaving the settlings or dregs called “lees” behind.

Once the wine is properly purified, it is captured in the right kind of vessel and there it ages and matures, developing its final taste and scent and becomes what the maker intended it to be.

We, who belong to Jesus, have a loving Heavenly Father who will not leave us settling on our lees. He promises that He will refine us!

He will crush us and then pour us out from vessel to vessel until we become exactly what our maker intended us to become.

Hebrews 12:6-7

6 For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.

7 If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?

Just like the maker of the wine, God intends to separate you from that which keeps you from becoming His best work.

If you are saved, you are in the midst of a process in which God is going to make you what He has intended you to be,

First in this process is:

I. You will be crushed!

A. It comes many ways:

1. It may come by way of an illness.
2. It may be a broken heart.
3. It may be a wayward child.
4. It may be a failing marriage.
5. It may be a loss of income.
6. It may be the loss of a loved one.
7. It may be a betrayal.
8. There is virtually no limit to how many ways life can crush us!

B. I believe that most of us know what "crushed" feels like.

1. Sometimes we are crushed by the very weight of our own sin.
2. When it gets so bad; when you are broken, helpless and find yourself lying prostrate crying out to God...
3. That's when we find ourselves ready to be changed!

Next in the process:

II. You will be “poured out”.

A. Look at how this term is used in God's Word and I think you will get the picture.

1. The Psalmist used this term as he described Jesus on the cross:

Psalm 22:13-18

13 They gaped upon me *with* their mouths, as a ravener and a roaring lion.

14 I am **poured out** like water, and all my bones are out of joint: my heart is like wax; it is melted in the midst of my bowels.

15 My strength is dried up like a potsherd; and my tongue cleaveth to my jaws; and thou hast brought me into the dust of death.

16 For dogs have compassed me: the assembly of the wicked have enclosed me: they pierced my hands and my feet.

17 I may tell all my bones: they look *and* stare upon me.

18 They part my garments among them, and cast lots upon my vesture.

2. Isaiah describing Jesus:

Isaiah 53:12 Therefore will I divide him *a portion* with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because **he hath poured out his soul unto death**: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

3. Hannah before the Lord in:

1 Samuel 1:15 And Hannah answered and said, No, my lord, I *am* a woman of a sorrowful spirit: I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink, but have **poured out my soul** before the LORD.

4. Crushed and broken, we pour out our soul before the Lord.

5. Have you ever poured out your soul to God? Have you ever begged Him to set you free?

6. Just like the wine, each time we are “poured out”, God separates us from the dregs; the impurities that pollute us.

B. We are poured out and separated from our fleshly desires.

1. **1 Peter 4:1-2**

1 Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin;

2 That he no longer should live the rest of *his* time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God.

2. We must be crushed, defeated and broken until we do not care about what our flesh wants anymore; until we don't care about anything more than what God cares about.

3. God will pour you out until no job, no possessions, no riches, no activity, no besetting sin or nobody will come before your being and doing what God has created you to be and do.

C. We are poured out and separated from our previous companions.

1. Worldly companions corrupt us; they have to be put at a distance.

1 **Corinthians 15:33** Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners.

2. There is a very distinct difference between being a friend to the world and being a friend of the world!

3. Some of you have not yet learned that difference; and yes, you will be poured out until you do.

4. Yes, we are commanded to take the good news to the world, but we do it together and from a position of strength and unity.

5. NOT out there on our own being one of them!

6. **Ecclesiastes 4:12** ...a threefold cord is not quickly broken.

7. It is far easier for worldly companions to pull us down than for us to pull them up.

8. That position of strength and unity that can reach the world is right here in God's house where we together can throw out a lifeline of many woven into a cable of strength instead of individual threads that snap in the face of temptation!

D. We are also poured out and separated from our pride.

1. When the Lord breaks your heart because of your sin;
2. When the Lord speaks to your heart about what really needs to change in your life; not the symptoms, the real problems; and we all know that He does...
3. What is it that keeps you from falling on your face and pouring out your soul to the Lord?
4. There is only one thing that keeps a believer from his knees; and that, in most cases, is pride.
5. **Proverbs 8:13** The fear of the LORD is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate.
6. Lighthouse is a great Church, Lighthouse is a loving Church, Lighthouse is a generous Church...but Lighthouse is also a proud Church!
7. Does not the Lord see the pride in our heart?
8. When do we ever see these steps filled with God's people pouring out their soul to the Lord?

Conclusion:

I don't think there is any way to avoid being crushed and poured out.

It is not punishment: it is discipline.

Chastisement may feel like punishment, but it is not; Jesus took our punishment for us.

I am glad I have a Heavenly Father who loves me enough to do whatever it takes to make me what He designed me to be!