

Spoken Word no. 243

“Passive Faith, Crucifixion Faith”

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I want to bring a little message tonight quite a bit different from what I preached on many, many years ago. Which I suppose at that time was more effective, being on the road. I call it the 'Power of the Cross'. But tonight I want to talk not in the same lines exactly as I did way back there, but something like that. We titled the message "The Cross of Christ". "The Cross of Christ". And we're going to read several portions of Scripture, beginning in

Isaiah 53:7 *He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a shearer before her shearers is dumb, so he opened not his mouth.*

Matthew 27:11-14 *And Jesus stood before the governor: and the governor asked him, saying, Art thou the King of the Jews? And Jesus said unto him, **Thou sayest.** 12 And when he was accused of the chief priests and elders, he answered nothing. 13 Then said Pilate unto him, Hear thou not those, how many things they witness against thee? 14 And he answered him to never a word; insomuch that the governor marveled greatly.*

Dear Heavenly Father, we understand that you Son Jesus was totally surrendered to you, and he did nothing until shown of the Father what to do, and said nothing except that which you commanded him to speak. He was the consummate Son, the obedient son, and we see that because you gave him nothing to say for his time of Crucifixion and suffering, he did in fact say nothing, Father, it seems that we fall so short of that attribute that lay in your son. In this age when we are reviled we want to revile back, but that is not what Your Son Jesus told us to do. He said we are to not even speak when we are reviled upon, or when someone speaks angrily against us. Help us Father tonight to better understand what it meant for Your son Jesus to go to the cross and what it means for us to crucify our own selves with the lusts thereof. Help us to die to self, Help us to crucify ourselves that Christ Jesus Your son might live again in us, for we ask it in Jesus Christ's name.

We were taught in the Scriptures by the Apostle Peter that we must learn to suffer with Him if we are to reign with him.

1 Peter 2:21 *For even hereunto were ye called: **because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps:** 22 Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth: 23 Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judges righteously:*

And we also see in **Matthew 5: 38** *Ye have heard that it hath been said, An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth: 39 But I say unto you, That ye **resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on the right cheek, turn to him the other also.** 40 If any man will sue thee at the law, and take away thy coat, **let him have thy cloak also.** 41 And whosoever shall compel thee to go a mile, **go with him twain.** 42 Give to him that asketh thee, and from him that would borrow of thee turn not away. 43 You have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt*

love thy neighbor, and hate thine enemy. 44 *But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them that despitefully use you, and persecute you; 45 That you may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust. 46 For if you love them which love you, what reward have you? do not even the publicans the same?* You know we could all learn a great lesson here. We need to love everyone, even our enemies.

Beyond the curtain of time 61-0305 P:25 Never let me compromise with the Word. Let me stay straight on the Word. I don't care what anyone else does, Lord. Let me press on to that beautiful, joyful place. I am more convinced than ever in my life, that it will take perfect love to enter that place. There was no jealousy, no tiredness, no sickness, no old age, no death, only supreme beauty and joy. (Hallelujah!) Whatever you do, lay aside everything else until you get perfect love. Get to where you can love everybody, even every enemy. No matter if the plane is rocking, the lightning is flashing, or the guns of the enemy are upon you, these things do not matter; get perfect love. If you're not saved, accept Jesus Christ as your Saviour, now. If you have not been baptized in water, be baptized now. If you have not received the baptism in the Holy Spirit, receive It now. Press on in that perfect love, which will take you to that beautiful and joyful place beyond the curtain of time.

Jesus said in **Matthew 5: 25** *Agree with thine adversary quickly, whiles thou art in the way with him; lest at any time the adversary deliver thee to the judge, and the judge deliver thee to the officer, and thou be cast into prison. 26 Verily I say unto you, You shall by no means come out thence, till you have paid the uttermost farthing.*

And again in **Matthew 16:24-26** we read, *Then Jesus said unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. 25 For whosoever shall save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. 26 For what is a man profited, if he gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?* (And what will you do when it's too late to do what Jesus is saying here? What then? What then, what then, we'll be asked to give a risen what then. Like the song brother Branham used to sing,

*“what then, what then, we'll be asked to give a reason what then.
When those who're rejecting the Message tonight,
will be asked to give a reason what then.”*

Therefore you have got to start things about these things before its too late.

In **1st Peter 4:12-13**. we read, *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 suffering;*

Notice it says, *13 Rejoice, inasmuch as you are partakers of Christ's suffering;* (so don't think it strange now, that) *when his glory shall be revealed, that you may be glad also with exceeding joy.*

And again in **1 Corinthians 1: 18-25**, we read, *“18 For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God. 19 For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent. 20 Where is the wise? where is the scribe? where is the disputer of the world? hath not God made the foolishness the wisdom--rather not God made the foolish the wisdom of this world? 21 For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe. 22 For the Jews require a sign, the Greeks seek after wisdom: 23 But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness; 24 But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God. 25 Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men.*

So it all comes down to this verse that Paul said in **Galatians 2:20** *I have been crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live;*

Now there's the cross. And this is not simply looking back there. But many people would like to do that. And that is where you'll get into trouble. Because when you put this on the grounds that this, *"I was in Christ when He died upon Calvary,"* and you abnegate the cross that you personally must bear, (for Jesus said you must, *"Take up our cross and follow Me,"* and if a man does not take up his cross, he'll lose what he has in trying to save his own life). So you can not then put this to one side and say, *"I receive this in Christ and I leave it there."* This is not what is being said.

He in verse 20 he said, *20 I am crucified with Christ, nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ is living in me: and the life which I now live in the body of this death, I am living by the faith of the Son of God, His Faith, who loved me, and gave himself for me.*

Now this tells the whole story. Paul says, "I am crucified, yet I'm in am living because it is no longer my own life living in me, but the life of the son of God Himself, who has come in and taken over my life and is living it our for me." Now, is not hat what God did in Christ Jesus? Did not God come into His Son at the River Jordan and Jesus said it is not me that doeth the works but My Father that liveth in Me. Was it not God acting out the role of Son in His Son, and the Son of God was so obedient to his Father that He just yielded his Flesh to His Father to do and to speak through Him? Listen to what Brother Branham said about that.

Total Deliverance: 59-0712 P:55 *Jesus was completely, totally man. He could cry like a man, He could eat like a man; He could become like a man. He was completely, totally man in His physical being. And in His Spirit, He was completely, totally God, so He made His flesh submissive to the Spirit that was in Him. You see, He was tempted in all manners like we are. He was man, not an Angel. He was a man. He had desires and temptations just like we do. The Bible said He did. He was a man, not an Angel above temptation.*

Hebrews 1:4 *said He was made lower than the Angels. He was man, completely man, that God took a complete man to bring total deliverance; and He filled Him with His Spirit; the Holy Ghost was in Him without measure. And He was tempted like we were. And He was completely God. He proved it when He raised the dead, when He stopped nature, the*

roaring seas and the mighty winds. When He spoke to the trees, and so forth, they obeyed Him. He was God inside. And He could've been man, for **He was Man, but He totally and completely delivered Himself as a Man into the hands of God for the service of God. And He is our example.**

Show us the Father and It'll Satisfy: 56-0422 E-36 Now, it's many times it's been said that no man can see God at anytime, the Bible said so. But the only begotten of the Father has declared Him. Philip, here was very inquisitive; he wanted to see the Father. Says here He said, "I've been so long with you, Philip, and you don't know Me?" Said, "When you see Me you see My Father." **In other words, you see the Father express Himself through the Son. Him and the Father were one in the sense that His Father was dwelling in Him,** not Him doing the works; He was a Son, Himself, the immortal, virgin born, Son of God. And then in Him was dwelling the God the Father, expressing Himself to the world, His attitude towards the people. See? Well, that's how Christ and God were one. God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself. Now, He said, "When you see Me, you see the Father, and why do you say, 'Show us the Father?'"

Show us the Father 56-0422 E-36 Philip, here was very inquisitive; he wanted to see the Father. Says here He said, "I've been so long with you, Philip, and you don't know Me?" Said, "When you see Me you see My Father." **In other words, you see the Father express Himself through the Son. Him and the Father were one in the sense that His Father was dwelling in Him, not Him doing the works; He was a Son, Himself,** the immortal, virgin born, Son of God. And then **in Him** was dwelling the God the Father, expressing Himself to the world, His attitude towards the people. See? Well, that's how Christ and God were one. God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself. Now, He said, "When you see Me, you see the Father, and why do you say, 'Show us the Father?'"

GIFTS 56-1207 E-29 Now, in Christ dwelt the Fullness of the Godhead bodily. He had all the Spirit of God in Him. "I and My Father are One," said Jesus. **That's the reason the people couldn't understand Him. Sometimes He'd say something, might look like He turn around and say something different. It was Him speaking, then the Father speaking.** See? They were... And even the disciples could not understand Him. And right at the last, they said, "Lo, now speakest Thou plainly. Now, we believe by this if you know all things; no man needs to teach you." Jesus said, "Do you now believe?" After all that time, they couldn't get the... Why? That sometimes He'd say this and then say that. **It was Him and the Father speaking.** **E-30** Now, notice closely. Now, **God dwelling in Christ used His voice to speak by.** Jesus said in His miracle, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, the Son can do nothing in Himself, but what He sees the Father doing, that doeth the Son likewise." Is that right? Saint **John 5:19.** **Then He did not do nothing within Himself. No prophet ever did anything within himself, until first God showed what to do.** What a mistake Moses made when he went out without the vision of God and smote down the Egyptian, thought he'd liberate them with his hands, because he thought he had a lot of faith and could do it, because he was called for the job. **No matter how much you're called for the job, God has to do the leading.** See? He failed of all of his schooling and his military mind and his training as a great Egyptian leader. But yet it failed, 'cause **God had a program and we've**

got to work according to God's program. No matter what we do, how smart we are, we've got to humble ourselves and work according to God's program. Amen. So he failed and God had to keep him another forty years to educate him. So what it was, he must forget himself, and it's not him, but it was God.

He Swore By Himself 54-1212 *He said, "I and My Father are One. My Father is in Me." Said, "Show us now the Father." Philip said, "Showeth me the Father and it'll satisfy me." Said, "Philip, I been so long with you, and you don't know Me?" He said, "When you see Me, you see the Father. And why say, 'Show me the Father.' I and the Father are One. **My Father's living in Me now.** It's not Me that doeth the works; it's Him that dwells in me, that does the works." Oh, my. How could I tell a man what was wrong with him? How could I tell him what his future will be ten years, or what he was forty years ago? It isn't me. Hallelujah. **It's Him that lives in me**, that come down, that through His Blood brought me in fellowship with Him. Hallelujah. How could my hands do anything by healing the sick? It hasn't got a bit of power. It's not me. **But it's Him that dwells in here that does it.***

That's what the Apostle Paul was telling us in **Galatians 2:20**. He said, ***20 I am crucified with Christ, nevertheless I am living; yet not it is not I that is living, but Christ is living in me: and the life which I now live in the body of this death, I am living by the faith of the Son of God, His Faith, who loved me, and gave himself for me.***

He said, Christ died so that you might live, now we must die to self that Christ might live again, ...in us. In you, in me...That's our Crucifixion.

Therefore without a personal crucifixion to self, there cannot be a newness of life. And that's what Paul is saying. There simply cannot be.

Colossians 2: 8 *Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ. 9 For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. 10 And you are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power: 11 **In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in the putting off the body of sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ:***

(There's your personal Crucifixion, there's your cross).

12 Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the operation, through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead. 13 And you, being dead in your sins and uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses; 14 Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to the cross; 15 And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a show of them openly, triumphing over them in it.

Now you can see here he's speaking of what he wants to show us of the cross, the power of that cross which was fulfilled in Jesus Christ. But he didn't put aside the fact that Jesus said, ***"If a man doesn't take up his own cross, he loses his life, he loses this."***

Colossians 2: 8 Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.

And then lets skip forward to **18** Let no man beguile you of your reward in a voluntary humility and worshipping of angels, intruding into those things which he hath not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind. **19** And not holding the Head, from whom which all the body by joints and bands having nourishment ministered, and knit together, increases with the increase of God.

Remember Jesus said, "**Take up your cross and follow me.**" If a man doesn't do it he's not worthy.

John 15:19. *If you were of the world, the world would love his own: but because you are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.*

And in **Romans 12:12** Paul said, *Rejoicing in hope; **patient in tribulation**; continuing instant in prayer;*

Now, This evening I would like to speak on the second part of this verse, "**patient in tribulation.**"

Paul speaks here of tribulation and the condition we should be in when we come through tribulation. Now, he is not speaking of the great tribulation but rather of tribulation, or affliction or the pressure and oppression that comes as a result of our stand in the Gospel. Jesus makes this clear in **Matthew 13**.

Matthew 13:10 *And the disciples came, and said unto him, Why speakest thou unto them in parables? 11 He answered and said unto them, Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but **to them it is not given.** 12 For whosoever hath (whoso is of such a nature as to be able to echo what I say), **to him shall be given, and he shall have more abundance: but whosoever hath not** (whoso is not capable of echoing what I say), **from him shall be taken away even that he hath.** 13 Therefore speak I to them in parables: because they seeing see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand. 14 And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Esaias, which saith, By hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and shall not perceive: 15 For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and should understand with [their] heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them. 16 But blessed are your eyes, for they see: and your ears, for they hear. 17 For verily I say unto you, That many prophets and righteous [men] have desired to see [those things] which ye see, and have not seen [them]; and to hear those things which ye hear, and have not heard [them]. 18 Hear ye therefore the parable of the sower. 19 When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the way side. 20 But he that received the seed into stony places, the same is he that heareth the word, and anon with joy receiveth it; 21 Yet hath he not root in himself, but dureth for a while: for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended. 22*

He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful. 23 But he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, and understand it; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.

Jesus again makes it clear that if we are to stand with Him and His Word, we will be considered outcasts, and will not be received by the world.

Matthew 5:10 *Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.* Now, this word persecuted means: in any way whatever to harass, trouble, molest one; to persecute; to be maltreated, suffer persecution on account of something. This does not speak of those who would disagree with your stand but actually speaks of those who would chase after in order to accuse, and harass, and try to inflict suffering in some form or fashion. *11 Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you,* (that means to use abusive or contemptuous language when they speak of you or towards you, in order to cast aspersions against you.) *and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. 12 Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.*

Now, this reward is not given to you for all the hard work you do, but for being passive. Therefore it is a passive income so to speak. I learned something the other day at a seminar that Br. Glenn and I attended that I can apply to our spiritual rewards. They speak of passive income. That is income you make while you are absolutely doing nothing. As the old expression says, let your money make money. Too many people want to be in total control and those who are this way, will most likely work for themselves, because it is hard for them to work for others. But like most people they work for money instead of letting their money work for them. And thus you might work very hard but working hard does not make a person rich in this life, and neither does it make a person spiritually rich in faith.

I learned that passive income is your money working for you so that whether you are eating or sleeping, it is working and making more. And that is what we are talking about when we read what Paul said in **Galatians 2:20** *“I am crucified with Christ, nevertheless I am very much alive, and ye the Life that I am now living in this Flesh, I am living by the Faith of Christ because it is Christ living in me.”*

Therefore, what is the manner of action we are to take when they do these things to us? The answer is nothing, but let go and let God. we become instant in prayer. We are speaking of being patient while facing tribulation, and persecution for the word.

Jesus never promised peace with men while we live in this world, so we had better get used to the persecution and tribulation for the Word Sake. Its all part of our identification with Him who is the Word.

John 16:33 *These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.*

Now, any tribulation is not a pleasant thing to go through, but for some reason while we are able to undergo many tribulations while in this world we can still find the capacity to rejoice in them. And why is this? Because we are so confident in the Faith of Jesus Christ that we know with no uncertainty that "All things will work together for the good of those who love God and those who are the Elect according to His purpose.

Romans 8:26-30 *Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. 27 And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God. 28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. 29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. 30 Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.*

Now, this searching of the heart is part of what brings forth our trials as we shall see a little later in this message.

Now, why is it that only the Christian, the Elect of God can rejoice even while under the toughest of trials? Because we know that God is not far from us, and whatever form of trial we may be going through, we know that He has allowed it to work something in us that otherwise would not be there. And that is the key... When you are going through any trial, I don't care if it is one concerning your job, your finances, your health, your spousal relationship, whatever the trial, don't forget that God knew about it before it even happened to you. And not only did He know about it, but He allowed it to bring forth something in you that is lacking yet in your character. But just remember, that while you are going through whatever the trial may be, you are not alone.

And that is why we are commanded to be patient. And that is why also we can be patient. Because we know God is working on whatever problem we are undergoing, and He has not left us nor forsaken us.

Jesus said in **John 14:1** *Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.*

And again in Jesus said, **John 14:27** *Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid. 28 Ye have heard how I said unto you, I go away, and come [again] unto you. If ye loved me, ye would rejoice, because I said, I go unto the Father: for my Father is greater than I. 29 And now I have told you before it come to pass, that, when it is come to pass, ye might believe.*

In **II Corinthians 4:6** The Apostle Paul tells us we will have tribulation and persecution, but that is in order to work into our flesh what we have received from God through His Word in our Spirit. *For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. 7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the*

power may be of God, and not of us. 8 We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; 9 Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed; 10 Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body. 11 For we which live are always delivered unto death for Jesus' sake, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh.

The purpose of our being patient while under assault from the tribulations and testing is to bring about a character change in us.

Paul said in **Romans 5:1** *Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:* (In other words, it all lays in the fact that God has chosen you to give you the revelation of Himself, and in doing so the world will and must hate you for it hated him first.

John 15:18 *If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before [it hated] you. 19 If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you. 20 Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also. 21 But all these things will they do unto you for my name's sake, because they know not him that sent me. 22 If I had not come and spoken unto them, they had not had sin: but now they have no cloke for their sin. 23 He that hateth me hateth my Father also. 24 If I had not done among them the works which none other man did, they had not had sin: but now have they both seen and hated both me and my Father. 25 But [this cometh to pass], that the word might be fulfilled that is written in their law, They hated me without a cause. 26 But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, [even] the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me: 27 And ye also shall bear witness, because ye have been with me from the beginning.* So you see you should be expecting persecution and trials for your stand, and if you are not receiving them, you should be wondering if you really believe?

Smyrnaean Church Age – Church Age Book Chptr 4 117-2 *"Think it not strange concerning the fiery trials that are to try you." That is what Peter said. Is it strange that God wants us to develop a Christ-like character that comes through suffering? No sir. And we all have trials. We are all tried and chastened as sons. Not one but goes through that. The church that is not suffering, and is not being tried, hasn't got it--it isn't of God. Heb. 12:6, "For whom the Lord loveth He chastens, and scourges every son whom He receiveth. But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons." 117-3 Now this special condition in Smyrna must be applied to every age. There is no age free from it. There is no true believer free from it. This is of God. This is the will of God. It is needful. We need the Lord to teach us the truth that we are to suffer and be Christ-like in doing it. "Love suffers long and is kind." **Matthew 5:11-12**, "Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and 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."*

18-1 The cloudy skies and storms of life are no signs of God's disapproval. Neither are bright skies and still waters signs of His love and approval. His approval of any of us is only IN THE BELOVED. His love is elective which He had for us before the foundation of the world. Does He love us? Ah yes. But how shall we know? We shall know because He SAID SO, and manifested that He did love us for He brought us to Himself and gave us of His Spirit, placing us as sons. And how shall I prove my love to Him? By believing what He said, and by conducting myself with joy amidst the trials that He in His wisdom allows to come to pass.

So we see that trials must come, because they are for a purpose, and if Jesus the Son of God learned obedience by the things He suffered, how much more you and I must come the same way. As Paul said in Hebrews, that just proves we are sons. But how we respond is what God is looking at. If we blow up and fight back, then we are not ready.

Impersonation of Christianity 57-0120M 52 *And when the yoke is lined with a joy, and peace, and sweetness of Christ in your heart, then you just pick up all the burdens the world casts on you, and bear them to a certain hill called Calvary. And there you kneel down and pray for that one that was persecuting you, not rain fire out of heaven and tear up the church, but you bring peace to them. "God, be merciful to them."*

Romans 5:1 *Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: 2 By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. 3 And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience;* (why are we to be patient in tribulation? Because tribulation is given to us for the purpose of working patience in to us. You know we sing the psalm, They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings as an eagle, they shall walk and not be weary, they shall run and not faint, teach me Lord, Teach me Lord to wait.) *4 And patience, experience; and experience, hope: 5 And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.*

Be Certain Of God 59-0125 44 *Then remember, if He is, His Word has to be true. And if He required you to meet these circumstances and you did, He's obligated to take care of His Word. Don't back off and say, "Oh, I never got healed. I..." Oh, you poor, weak faith. Don't believe that. If everything's confessed, and everything's out, and you met God's requirement, faith holds right there. There's nothing will move it. He is, and you're sure. "They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with the wings of an eagle. They shall run and not be weary; if they walk, they shall not faint." Wait, when you've met His requirements; that brings your faith to a showdown. If you have met... God's requirements has been met, and you have fully considered it, and you have done everything that God required you to do, then your faith rests right there that He is. Be certain of God. 46 You know, He loves to test us. He loves to see the reaction of your faith. Did you know that? God likes to see how you'll react. When you say, "Oh, Lord, I believe You; Thou art my Saviour. I believe that You are the Healer; I believe that You are the One Who gives the Holy Spirit; and the things that I am requiring, You are the God Who gives that." And then when you confess all your sins and promise God what you'll do if He'll let you get well, and*

then because it don't happen, you run off like a coward somewhere, God can't use that. There's no way for Him to use you. There's no way for Him to answer you, because He only answers by faith. Then all of a sudden you go away and He can't answer. But real true faith stands there, being sure that God is. Be certain that He is. And if God asks this thing to be done, to confess your sins and so forth, and you've done it, faith says that He is; it's certain that it's going to happen. Your request has to be granted. Oh, I hope you don't miss that. If you're sure of God, God's sure of His Word. He's only waiting to test you.

II Thessalonians 2:1 *Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him, 2 That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand. 3 Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;*

I Peter 3:12 *For the eyes of the Lord [are] over the righteous, and his ears [are open] unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil. 13 And who is he that will harm you, if ye be followers of that which is good? 14 But and if ye suffer for righteousness' sake, happy are ye: and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled; 15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and [be] ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear: 16 Having a good conscience; that, whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ.*

You see, our patience shows we are at rest with God and when we get out of the way, he will fight our battles for us.

II Thessalonians 1:6 *Seeing it is a righteous thing with God to recompense tribulation to them that trouble you; 7 And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, 8 In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: 9 Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power; 10 When he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day. 11 Wherefore also we pray always for you, that our God would count you worthy of [this] calling, and fulfill all the good pleasure of [his] goodness, and the work of faith with power: 12 That the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and ye in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.*

Life Story 51-0722A 9 *Now, there's a perfect way and a permissive way. And I feel that if God, here on the platform, can show me things that has been, and in my rooms and so forth, He's able to tell me just where He wants me and what He wants me to do. But I feel as long as I've got it all hooked up, or I feel like then He won't put His hands on it, as long as I'm doing it. And that's the way it is, anything. As long as you're going to do it... If someone talks about you, and you talk back about them, God can't fight your battle; you're fighting it yourself. See? Just--just let loose and let Him do it. And just commit it to Him.*

However, He also said in **John 6:33** Jesus said, "*In me ye may have peace. In the world ye will have tribulation.*"

In **Romans 5:3** Paul says, "*We Glory in tribulations also*" From this verse appears the distinction between the two-fold wrath of God, the two-fold divine mercy, and the two-fold tribulation; for there is a tribulation which comes to us from divine wrath, and another which comes from divine goodness. The tribulation which comes from divine Love can work that only which is good for us, even though for a time it may appear to be otherwise.

But we see in this in **1 Peter 1: 3-7** *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fades not away, reserved in heaven for you, 5 Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. 6 Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: 7 That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perishes, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:*

The tribulation which comes from divine Love can work that only which is good for us, as we already read in **Romans 8**, even though for a time it may not appear to be so as we see in **1 Peter**. Then this lack of understanding the outcome of our trial, and our misperception of what is taking place is not the fault of the tribulation which God so chooses for us to endure, but rather the misperception comes from our weakness during the tribulation. In such a case we fail to understand the nature, power and operation or (purpose) of the tribulation and therefore we judge it only according to its outward appearance and our perception. when this occurs, we think wrongly about what is happening, when we should be reverencing the trial as the very Cross of Christ itself.

Remember The apostle Paul said in **Romans 5:4** "*Knowing that Tribulation worketh patience.*" He who has faith, has all the excellent things that Paul mentioned in the text, but in a hidden way. Through tribulation they are tried and purified to the highest degree. Whatever tribulation finds in us, it develops more fully. And therefore the purpose of the trial or tribulation is to expose where we are carnal, weak, blind, wicked, haughty, and so forth. Because without this understanding of how Christ works in us His will, tribulation will only make us more carnal, more weak, more blind, more wicked and more haughty. On the other hand, if we are spiritual, then our tribulations will make us strong, wise, pious, gentle and humble. We will become more spiritual, more powerful, more wise, more pious, more gentle and more humble, as we see in [Psalm 4:1] "Thou hast enlarged me when I was in distress." So we see here that distress will enlarge what ever condition we are in, whether in a carnal condition or in a spiritual one. And that is the purpose of the trials and tribulations. And in fact when the great tribulation comes, it will only manifest to those left behind what their true condition is. Both to the foolish Virgin who think that somehow the Blood of Christ isn't strong enough for their sins, as well as to those who are lost who will in tribulation, become more angry, more demanding, more demeaning, more veracious, more selfish, more animalistic.

People today have become so immature in their thinking that they want to blame their anger and their impatience on the one who happens to be offending them. But this is only foolish thinking, and we all need to grow up in Christ and get away from such foolish notions as this. Because tribulation does not make a person impatient, but only proves that they are impatient. Tribulation does not make a person angry, but only proves that they are angry. Therefore, tribulation is meant to teach our hearts of what we are constituted.

The Christian who outwardly worships the Cross of Christ and yet flees from tribulation and affliction, are simply ignorant and childish in their thinking and indeed are hypocritical in their thinking because the Scriptures tell us that the Cross of Christ is not just that wooden object that Jesus was stretched out upon, but as we read in **Matthew 10:38**, Jesus said, "*He that takes not his cross, and follows after me, is not worthy of me.*"

In other words, *he is no Christian who refuses to bear this cross*; for Paul said, "*we glory in tribulation.*" And in **Acts 14:22** we read, "*We must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.*" And the word, "must" does not mean that tribulation comes by chance, or that it is a matter of choice for us, or that we may take it or leave it. God is our Savior and Healer and helper in times of trouble, and those who would bypass tribulation are saying in effect, I don't want to have to make any dependence upon God, and thus by doing so, we are literally robbing God of His titles, and His honor. In essence in denying God opportunity to help us in our infirmity, *we make Him a god of no substance to us.* And to those people who think this way our Lord could never be their savior, nor could He be their healer, nor could He be their helper in times of need, because they will not admit that they are under condemnation. To them God is never mighty, He is never Wise, nor is He gracious, because they do not desire to honor Him as creatures that are weak, foolish and subject to punishment.

Paul said, "*Experience worketh hope*". Experience must then be understood to be the object of our tribulation, or the good which tribulation is to effect. God accepts no one as righteous whom He has not first put to the test or has first tried. But He tries us through the fire of affliction, as we read in **Psalms 11:5** "*The Lord Trieth the Righteous.*" God tries us in this way in order that we may really know whether we love Him for His own sake.

We read also in **Psalms 139:24** "*Search me, Oh God, and know my heart: try me and know my thoughts: and see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.*" The if God would not try us by tribulation, it would be impossible for us to be saved.

Romans 5:5 *Hope maketh not ashamed.* Tribulation takes from man everything in which He trusts and leaves him naked and destitute. It also prevents him from seeking help and salvation in his own temporal and spiritual works.

Finally, it causes him to despair of every creature, to look away from himself, and apart from himself and everything else, to seek help alone from God, the Creator, as we see in **Psalms 3:3** "*But thou oh, Lord art a shield for me; my glory, and the lifter up of mine head.*" That is what hope means, and through the experience of tribulation such hope is confirmed in us. On the other hand, the wicked who trust in their own virtues, and do not endure tribulations with patience, do not allow themselves to be tried by it, and they never discover

that we must put our trust in God alone. Therefore, when the last trial or affliction will come, and all their virtues and merits will disappear, then, when they sink into a hopeless eternity they will cry out to the mountains: "*Fall on us Lk 23:30* Their assumed hope is actually no hope at all, but only a perverse, arrogant trust in their own works and righteousness.