



# The "WHY" of Our Troubles

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*By Christian at Work*

How often we ask ourselves, when cares and troubles multiply until it seems sometimes as if we could not bear another atom, WHY IS IT THAT WE MUST BE SO HEAVILY BURDENED IN OUR EARTHLY LIFE? Why cannot things be made a little easier for us, or at any rate, why doesn't God give us a vacation from our trials now and then, so that we can rest, and gain strength to bear them more easily?

And when we Christians get to what has seemed to us the very limit of endurance, we get down on our knees and ask the Lord to take away our trials, or give us more strength to bear them; and we never once really take in the thought that He does not

*want* us to bear them at all; that He is holding out his hands to take these terrible burdens and *keep* them for us. [**Matthew 11:28-30; Psalm 55:22**] We do not realize this, and so we cling to our troubles, groan over their weight, and stagger alone beneath them, and the more we look at them, the bigger they seem to be, until by and by they crush us utterly, and we cannot see anything else, not even the face of the loving Father Himself.

The fact is, we have crawled around among our cares and worries so long, and have become so used to being miserable, that it really seems as if we had utterly forgotten that God wants us to be happy; and we are afraid to allow ourselves to be happy, for fear He may think our burdens aren't heavy enough, and send down another load. [**Galatians 5:22; John 17:13; Psalm 51:12**]

Like a woman we heard of the other day, who said she always went through at least two hours of worry and despondency about her trials; and when she had cried until she had a wet handkerchief spread out to dry on every chair in the room, she thought she might cheer up a little, but she never expected to be happy in this life. *“Why,”* she said, *“if I were happy, I should think I had lost all my religion.”*

That isn't the spirit God wants us to have. **[Philippians 4:4]** If we are that sort of Christians, we shall never win our children, or our Sabbath-school scholars, or anybody else, to our God. We are dishonoring Him all the time that we feel or talk in this way. TRIALS WILL COME TO US, THERE IS NO DENYING THAT, BUT GOD CAN—NAY, GOD IS LONGING TO—GIVE US THE POWER TO RISE ABOVE THEM. **[Philippians 4:13]**

Does a mother feel aggrieved because her children are happy? Does she immediately set about hunting up some distasteful work for them, to tone down their happiness? Not a bit of it. Instead of that, she rejoices in every joy that comes to them, and does everything in her power to remove care and trouble from their lives. Is a mother more loving than the God who made her what she is? **[Zephaniah 3:17]**

But even the most tender mother, if she is wise as well as loving, sometimes gives her children hard things to do or bear, when she might avoid it, because she sees a hard lesson is needed to check some fault, or strengthen some weakness. So God does with us. **[Hebrews 12:5-8]** Mrs. Hannah Whithall Smith gave a most beautiful illustration of this in a recent Bible reading in Washington.

She said that a friend of hers had a large cocoon which she had kept for some time, and by and by she noticed that there was a hole in one end of it, and that the butterfly was trying to escape from its prison. She watched it with great interest for a long time, but though it struggled and struggled, it did not get free. At last, looking very closely, she saw that a little filament held it down. So she took her scissors and very gently cut the thread. The butterfly at once emerged, but its wings did not dry, and open in all their beauty, as she had seen others do. Instead, they hung limp, white, and lifeless, and the little creature lived so a day or two, and then died. She asked a naturalist why this was so, and he told her that the struggles of the butterfly in its efforts to escape from the chrysalis were the very means by which the life fluids were distributed throughout its wings; and

because, in this case, it had been freed with very little exertion on its own part, its wings had not gained power to expand.

**[2 Corinthians 4:17; 1 Peter 5:10]**

Isn't there a lesson here for us?

*[Emphasis and Scriptures added by Lightindarkness.site]*

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