

ALTAPASS ALLEGORIES

By

A Church Member

All of God's people experience bad times. I've heard these times referred to as "bad hair days" or "blue Mondays" or even trials. Not so. A real trial will leave us shaken to the bone. A true trial can blindsides us when we least expect it. Sometimes these appear to be just a bump in the road and other times they seem insurmountable.

I'm sure most of us have, at some time, asked God why these times come to us. We might think because we are saved and are one of God's children we wouldn't have to go through so many trials. However, 1 Peter 1:7 tells us, "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."

It has been said if you are not having a problem today, tomorrow may be your turn. It's certainly not always that we are being punished by God for some wrong doing. So why does the One who loves us most allow such things to come to us? Zechariah 13:9 explains this question very plainly. We are not being punished, only polished so that we may shine as gold tried in the fire. Isn't that a wonderful thought! We know that to refine gold it must be put through a very high heat to remove all dross and impurities. Then it becomes of the very highest quality. We have also heard how a true pearl is made. How the oyster suffers before a grain of sand becomes a beautiful pearl. A true pearl is of much greater value than an artificial one.

We can be assured that no matter how great the trial we face, God will provide provision for us. He has sufficient grace to cover every trial in our lives. Paul prayed for the removal of the thorn in his flesh. God did not remove the thorn but He gave Paul boundless grace (2 Corinthians 12: 7-9). God's grace is more precious than the removal of the trial we're going through. God's also gives us His presence in the midst of every trial. Jesus showed up on a stormy sea when His disciples felt they had no hope (Mat 14:25).

I like the phrase in God's word that states "and it came to pass". We can be sure these trials did not come to stay. They came to pass. God's grace will bring us through so we can shine forth as pure gold. Jesus will always show up when we need Him. Trust Him.