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WHEN SUFFERING IS GAIN

Recently, I received an email letter from John Joseph, a dear brother in Australia. He explained the insight that the Lord showed him, on the heavenly order that not only permits, but also uses suffering; this is invaluable for us to know at this time. He writes, *“When once I pondered the nature and set-up of the world we live in, the Lord took me back to the first verse of the bible “In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.” The natural man interprets that as God creating planets above and another planet below i.e. the earth, or, as God creating a far-above-heaven and an earth. But when the scripture opened up mystically to me and revealed its true meaning it was not about planets but was thus: In the beginning God created an upper platform and a lower platform. The upper platform is the place of “causes” and the lower platform the place of “results”. Whatever happens on the upper platform will happen on the lower platform; but if a thing happens on the lower platform it will in no way influence the upper platform. The upper has power over the lower and that is a divine law. The lower has no power over the upper. To understand Genesis we have to read it like Revelation. The beginning and the end; both are intimately related. Both are books of symbols. Sure, Abraham was a real person, but he was a symbol of a spiritual reality – the spirit of faith. Similarly all the patriarchs are types or symbols of spiritual realities. So the symbols heaven and the earth – stand for spiritual realities. (Of course, like Abraham, they do exist in themselves). What I’m getting to is that when we suffer affliction which is not from the earth/natural dimension, it is that on an upper platform something has been moved into place which then must manifest on the earth level. Bearing in mind that the LORD GOD is on the highest platform and has power over all lower platforms, and Jesus has a name which is above every name, and everything bows the knee to that Power. So, dear Jackie, when it comes to your accident which has caused you such pain don’t second-guess it or wonder ‘what if’ ...I’d only been more careful, or, if only I’d had my proper glasses on, or...etc, etc. It wouldn’t matter what you did. A power was out to get you and God permitted it, as He did similarly to me. And you and I will come right through it all and grow closer to the Lord in the process as Job did. And the issue is rulership. The ancient powers on that mid-heaven platform that have lorded it over mankind for ages are being dethroned and cast down and being replaced by the Sons of God. Those powers are not happy about that!! But, as Paul says: “Know ye not that we shall judge angels?” End of quote.*

It is often difficult for anyone who has been under the teachings of the Pentecostal movement, and is moving on to the Word of sonship and Tabernacles, to understand and accept that suffering can actually be God’s instrument to bring us closer to Himself. Nevertheless, as we had been walking in the knowledge of “Christ in you, the hope of glory,” we are now walking in the time of “You in Christ, the arising glory.” To bring us to this transition, our soul goes through the fires of purification which is the baptism of fire. We were first baptized in water unto repentance, we were then baptized in the Holy Spirit to open our understanding to the mysteries of God. From that time on, the Holy Spirit began to lead us into all truths, and our soul is painstakingly but surely finding an entrance into the glory of Christ within. This comes to us by experience only, mostly through the flames of the baptism of fire,

and fire speaks of suffering. Our bodies of flesh and blood are subject to all kinds of suffering. This is why we need doctors, surgeons, psychiatrists, counselors, nurses and medicinal help. Our bodies are vulnerable, wide open to much pain by diseases, accidents, overwhelming griefs and death. These bodies are God's furnaces of earth where the fire that baptizes our souls is kindled. It takes maturity to comprehend this, but when we do, the load is shifted and we are able to bear it and be grateful.

Paul understood this when he spoke of his "thorn in the flesh." *"And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure."* (II Cor.12:7) Paul prayed for God to remove his affliction; he explains, *"For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. And He said to me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me."* (II Cor.12: 8-10)

Paul knew his calling, and he learned the ways of God by experience. He accepted the physical infirmities that humbled him, and curbed his zeal so that he could fulfill the will of God, and not his own. Through suffering we come to true humility and our faith is tested. Jesus said, *"I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire..."* (Rev.3:18) Gold is the nature of God; it has to be bought and the currency to pay for this is the fire of suffering and loss. Believers and unbelievers alike suffer in this world. Some become more bitter and some lose faith through it, but when we as sons, offer our suffering unto God, it becomes the price we pay in exchange for the precious gold of His nature. Humility, faith, love of God and love for others, all these things are treasures in our heavenly bank. True wisdom and knowledge of God are eternal treasures that are acquired through hard experiences in this life. Eternal treasures have to be sought after, *"Riches and honour are with me; yea durable riches and righteousness. My fruit is better than gold, yea, than fine gold; and my revenue than choice silver. I lead the way of righteousness, in the midst of the paths of judgment; that I may cause those that love me to inherit substance; and I will fill their treasures."* (Prov.8:18-21) The true riches to seek are his gold, His righteousness. The way of righteousness is found in the paths of judgment, and judgment speaks of fire. The results of walking in these paths, are the inheritance of substance, (a new, incorruptible, touchable body), and heavenly treasures unlimited, such as love, faith, hope, and all these things that are found in Christ.

Suffering in God is not something to curse or shy away from, although it is a natural reaction to do that. The Lord will lead us to seek healing for our bodies, and to protect them from diseases and harm as much as possible. He might send us a gift of healing, or even a miracle, but more often we will need to go to a doctor, and wait for our healing which may come quickly, or not at all. In all these circumstances, suffering is a fire that we can offer unto our God in exchange for His refined gold and heavenly treasures. Suffering does not always touch the body of flesh; it also touches our minds and emotions. But the glory comes when in the midst of it all, we find the treasures we acquired, and we see our ashes turn into beauty. We receive the oil of joy for the spirit of heaviness; and we come closer to be changed into trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord that gives glory and honor to Him. (see Isa.61:3) *"Weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning."* (Ps.30:5b) The Son of righteousness is indeed arising with healing in His wings. Blessed are we indeed.

Because He is love, *Jackie Caporaso*