

Weekly Devotions: THE REFINING FIRE OF TRIALS 12

Look at Your Problems through the Binoculars of the Cross

Those facing life's problems struggle with two questions; "Can God help me or does He have the power to help me?" and; "Will He help me, that is, does He care?" We should look at personal as well as global sufferings through the binoculars of the Cross. The Cross brings comfort and hope in our times of darkness.

The Cross symbolizes two things, the unconditional, sacrificial love of God and the power of His resurrection. The Cross assures us that nothing is impossible to God who had resurrected Jesus from death. And if God had sent His Son to die for our sins, is there anything He will not do for us? Looking at our problems through the Cross gives us the assurance that God will and can help us.

On the Cross, Jesus suffered injustice, betrayal, false accusation, humiliation, desertion and violent death. Our pain and sufferings are nothing compared to that which the Son of God went through on our behalf. And because of His sufferings He could empathize with our pain and struggles. The Cross gives us comfort that God understands our pain and we are not alone. Trials are times when we understand the significance and experience the reality of God's gracious love for us.

Read Heb 2: 17-18; 4: 14-16

Jesus is described as the Great High Priest who brings the needs of the people to the Father. He is the High Priest that empathizes with our pain because He Himself had gone through senseless pain. He had faced all kinds of *peirazo* (2:18) meaning all kinds of trials, testing and temptation. Hence He is able to help those who are being tried or tested. In times when we feel nobody cares and nobody understands, we can approach Jesus knowing that He empathizes with us.

Questions to Ponder

1. What did the writer of Hebrews say about Jesus in these passages and what are His attributes? Which of His attributes mean the most to you in your time of testing? Why?
2. In what ways is Jesus like us (2:17) and what were some sufferings Jesus experienced when tested or *peirazo* (2: 18)? What hope & comfort does looking at the Cross give you in your time of difficulty?
3. From 2:18 and 4:15 how is Jesus the most reliable and best Person to turn to when we are in trouble? Why did the writer ask the early believers to draw near to the throne of grace in their time of need?