

# “WHEN I am weak, then I am strong...”

2 Cor. 12:8-10



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*Summary: Why does God let so many of his children continue to suffer in pain and suffering, tests, persecution and illness? What's the point of all that? Find out in this timely message. How can we be strong when we are weak? The points made here also help us understand how God is preparing a team of kings and priests to rule with Christ during his millennial reign -- people who have gone through a lot of pain and suffering. Learn how all of this is molding you into the exact person God wants for a spectacular purpose for all eternity.*

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Welcome and shalom to all of you, children of the Highest and brothers and sisters of Yeshua the Messiah.

I love spending time with my grandchildren. How many of you have grandchildren or even great-grandchildren? Don't you love spending time with them?

Well, one of the things the children love is to be in the swimming pool. And then before you know it, when they're 3-4 years old, we're trying to help them learn to actually swim; I mean on their own without clinging on to you.

First we tried with the swimmies around their arms, and that helped. But one of the first lessons was to understand, that as scary as it might seem at first, they were going to have to quit ***clinging*** to me so hard and to ... **TRUST ME-- that I was not going to let them drown.** Trust that I loved them with all my heart, TRUST that I was watching, TRUST that I was fully aware of where they were, of their fears -- and what was happening to them.

It was time for this child to progress, to be perfected in swimming – and growth so often entails ... well, FEAR. Stepping out. Experiencing some failure even. And it entails trusting someone greater than you who is trying to help you conquer your fear. Or to do something that for that moment is not fun.

**So when you're 4 yrs old, and Poppy is trying to get you to let go -- in faith -- and believe he would grab you if you started to go under --** - that's scary. But they needed to experience the water themselves, and trust me. I was not going to hurt them.

But as I tried to pry their firm grip off my arm or shirt, I found myself saying, "Ollie, trust Poppy. Trust me. I'm right here. And someday you'll LOVE swimming all by yourself. Hey – see your brothers swimming over there?" I did the same thing with them, and they were scared at first too, but look at them now! So trust me."

Guess what? Some of us are God's small children too. *In our moments of great distress, anguish, pain, times that seem like unanswered prayer – God is saying to us – "Trust me. GO thru this unpleasant time with me, I'm here, but you've got to go thru this. I have a reason for all this. Trust me."*

**Isaiah 26:3-4**

"You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, **Because he trusts in You.**

Trust in the Lord forever, For in Yah, the Lord, is everlasting strength".

I like the word "trust" – or we can say "have faith in" or "believe". Early Christians were called "**BELIEVERS**" (Acts 5:14) because they had to believe about Christ and trust God had their back and was watching over them every step of the way – no matter what pain so many went through as believers. In fact, Jesus said, "BLESSED are you when men revile you and persecute you..."

Peter and the early apostles, after one severe beating for preaching Christ, REJOICED that they were counted worthy to suffer that for him. (Acts 5:40-41). Remember they had just been beaten!

**Acts 5:41**

So they departed from the presence of the council, ***rejoicing*** that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His name.

Our Christian life, even as children of the Highest, will be full of times of frustration, plus pain and suffering physically – emotionally – spiritually; it is beset by trials and tests.

We know in the years coming ahead there will be greater and greater attacks against anyone who doesn't go along with the direction for which SATAN is setting the world stage. *Our war is not against people*. Our war is against the god of this world setting the stage for the coming attack against GOD HIMSELF by Satan – and then in his wrath, against the children of God, as **Revelation 12** clearly states. And he will use a coming Beast power and false

prophet to make it almost impossible to survive unless you go along. We won't be able to even buy or sell – pay a mortgage, buy food or gas or have a job!

If you don't go along with the prevailing dogma at that time, you'll be in trouble. If you try to explain that you believe in a clear male and female, or that you're against ending the lives of preborn boys and girls, or that you believe in Jesus of Nazareth the Son of God, or that you believe marriage is between ONE MAN and ONE WOMAN... you will suffer PAIN for that in the coming years. Real persecution.

Tests, suffering and hardships as never before are coming upon the people of God.

- There will be times you will undoubtedly wonder where GOD is in all of this. You'll wonder why HE isn't he doing more? “Why is he not intervening – that we can see at least? HE can do something, so why isn't he – at least not in my case”, you think.

So sometimes we can wonder “WHERE IS GOD? I'm his child. Why is he not doing more?”

**WHY? Because whatever our God lets us go through is preparing each of us for exactly the spot and position** He wants you in, for forever and ever. I'll show that as we go along. **It is through the stress and pain and anguish we initially go thru that is refining us. You know that. God wants us to trust Him, no matter what, including PRAISING HIM in and for the trials we're in.**

**Faith/trust comes by hearing (Romans 10:17).** It's good to share stories of answered prayer. It strengthens your faith to hear of healings, of interventions. Faith comes by hearing; at least one way. **We all love the stories in the Bible of great faith** that resulted in God's intervention, miracles, victories and answered prayers.

NAME some of the greatest Bible stories about faith and trust (**audience participation**) and **GOD'S DELIVERANCE**.

- Daniel in the Lion's den    David and Goliath    Crossing the Red Sea
- Gideon and his 300 men    Peter walking on water
- Shedrach, Meschach and Abednego – and the fiery furnace
- Many who were healed – “according to your faith...”
- **How about women** who trusted? Rahab.... Martha – before Lazarus' resurrection and her statements of profound faith. And Mary, the mother of Yeshua, “Let it be according to your word” when the angel announced she would be pregnant with the son of God.

**There are indeed so many stories of God's intervention** at the last second – Shedrach and his 2 friends, Daniel in the lions' den, Peter and his chains cast off...

**But for SO MANY children of God ... it *didn't* end positively, humanly speaking.** And for many of YOU, it hasn't been quite like that! People hurt, people die, people suffer... but WHY? WHY, when God is so all-powerful does He not just jump in and heal, remove the pain, the problems in our way, the broken marriage, the kids who are estranged, the body that hurts, the children or spouse who is dying or sick... WHY?

Most of Hebrews 11 is one story after another of great faith, and how God saved people in and for their FAITH. Noah, Abraham and Sarah, Jacob, Moses, so many are listed.

**But ABEL – was murdered, and God allowed it.**

- MANY believers were thrown to the LIONS and torn apart.
- Or – unlike Shedrach and his friends, thousands were BURNED at the stake.
- Unlike the many healings we can read about, thousands of God's children have died without being healed.

**But many of you know you still have your health issue.** You still have your **financial** trial. YOU *aren't* getting your youth renewed like an eagle... You still weep in sorrow almost daily from the loss of your sweet wife or your precious daughter. You wake up in pain and go to bed in pain – either emotional or physical pain.

In those moments, it IS sometimes hard to always be happy with your situation or with your God, unless... unless you're very, very mature spiritually. We can wonder where God is at times like this. And those who went before us went through terrible trials too.

The book of Hebrews, chapter 11 the faith chapter, takes a SERIOUS turn in the middle of v 35

**Heb 11:35b-38**

*“Others were **tortured**, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. 36 Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment. 37 They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, and were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute,*

*afflicted, tormented – 38 of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth.”*

*Let's continue for a clue to the answer why God did all this:*

**Hebrews 11:39-40**

“And all these, having obtained a good testimony *through faith*, did not receive the promise, 40 God having provided something better for us, that they should not ***be made perfect apart from us.***”

And that's not even counting yet the pain and suffering to come when the political –military-religious Beast power gets *going with Satan's powers* bestowed on that system. (**Revelation 13 – whole short chapter; 2 Thessalonians 2:9; Rev. 16:14**). The “Beast power” will be granted the right to make war against the saints and – initially – to prevail (Daniel 7:21).

We don't always like it, or even agree with it, but *God knows that it is in our pain and suffering that He can do His best work*, that HE can prepare you and me for what glorious position and job he has in store for you in the kingdom of God, when we're all spirit beings. SO the Bible **speaks of being made PERFECT by the things we suffer – Hebrews 11:40**, we just read it – “....that they should not be made perfect without us.”

**It's NOT unusual for God's children to wonder what he's doing**, what's taking so long, why isn't he acting? Even the prophets wondered!

**After waiting more than 25 years after being promised a SON, Abraham** and Sarah thought maybe God helps those who help themselves.... So they tried to work out God's promise by their own works – so they decided to use Hagar to create the promised son. Disaster.

**Even John the Baptist** – no one greater born from among women – who announced the Lamb of God, but even John the Baptist – as he rotted in jail began to wonder, as it appeared to him that his Messiah was doing nothing to advance the literal kingdom, or to get him out of jail. After all Mary had been told her son would sit on the throne of David.

**Luke 1:31-33** – Her Son “will sit on the throne of David for forever!”

So John the Baptist asked Jesus -- “ARE YOU the one or should we seek someone else.”

**Luke 7:18-21, 22-23**

**Then John's disciples told him about all these things. So John summoned two of his disciples 19 and sent them to the Lord,**

**asking, "Are You the One who is to come, or should we look for someone else?"**

20 When the men reached Him, they said, "John the Baptist sent us to ask You, 'Are You the One who is to come, or should we look for someone else?'

21 At that time Jesus healed many people of diseases, plagues, and evil spirits, and He granted sight to many blind people.

**22 Jesus answered and said to them, "Go and tell John the things you have seen and heard: that the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, the poor have the gospel preached to them. 23 And blessed is he who is not offended because of Me."**

Yeshua tells John – and us – “just because things aren’t happening the way you thought it would, or the way you would handle it, and it looks like things aren’t moving or that God is even aware of you...**BLESSED IS HE WHO IS NOT offended because of me!**” **V. 23**

When the severe persecutions come, and we're made to go through them, like Paul, like all the prophets, like those who came before us – it will be easy to be offended at God and Jesus for not intervening every time the way we thought he would; or the way WE think WE would if this were OUR child having to go through these things!

Remember – “Whoever is not offended because of me – is blessed!”

**Imagine what GOD put one of the top people in all the Bible – Paul – what God put HIM through!** Stonings, riots, long imprisonments, beatings, floggings, rejection, assassination attempts, having to escape by a basket down a wall (to hell in a hand basket)

And what God put Jeremiah, and Isaiah and others – even His own SON through. For the same reasons they were put through these things, so are WE. Look at Jeremiah?

**Even JEREMIAH weakened and wondered. Sometime read the last half of JER 15. God has to tell Jeremiah at the end of that to turn, to return, to repent!**

**Here's the end of what JEREMIAH said:**

**Jeremiah 15:18**

Why is my pain perpetual

And my wound incurable, (why aren't you healing me?)

Which refuses to be healed?

Will you surely be to me like an unreliable stream; as waters that fail?"

**Ezekiel – Ezek 24:15-19 -- God made him go through losing the love of his LIFE, “the delight of your eyes”, a wonderful wife whom he apparently adored.**

God took her, from a righteous prophet! Why? To accomplish God's purposes for the nation and to mold Ezekiel to be exactly what he wanted Ezekiel to be! We have to trust, trust, trust our God especially in these times of pain!

And so sometimes, surely I'm not the ONLY one – sometimes we WONDER why God – who is ALL POWERFUL, all-mighty—isn't doing MORE to deliver us.

**WHY am I asking such questions?** Am I trying to weaken your faith, your trusting? NO, absolutely not. Quite the opposite, in fact.

**The longer we live, we actually begin to see something very profound:** it was IN – and sometimes AFTER - our GREATEST pain, our scariest times of life, our SADDEST times of life, when we felt so ALONE at times though there may have been hundreds around us, that something MIRACULOUS was taking place.

Like Ollie in the pool, when he finally truly trusted and did what I was asking him do – and there was a learning curve – finally he was turning into a swimmer. He was very weak at first. But in his weakness, with trust and belief – he was becoming stronger – and then the day came, when he cries out from the other end of the steps into the pool, “Poppy, I'm going to swim to you....”! As the “great cloud of witnesses” -- HIS brothers and sister cheer him on!

It certainly is a bit easier to go through all these things when we as God's people come together, and “cheer each other on”, and pray for one another.

**In Hebrews 11:34** – in describing the tests and even horrors some of God's people had to go through, it says this:

**Hebrews 11:34**

“...quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, **out of weakness were made STRONG**, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens.”

The longer I live as a child of God, the more I realize that part of becoming strong, part of the process of purifying the gold and silver and shaping the clay into the finished product God wants, part of becoming the very image of Jesus

Christ – *is going to involve pain, suffering, persecution – and remaining faithful during all of that.*

**Even Jesus the Son of God had to suffer**

**Isaiah 53:3a**

“He is despised and rejected by men,  
**A Man of SORROWS and acquainted with grief.”**

In fact even the Son of God was made perfect, or made complete, made a better high priest because of what he suffered and went through.

**Hebrews 5:7-10**

“...who, in the days of His flesh, when He had offered up prayers and supplications, with vehement cries and tears to Him who was able to save Him from death, and was heard because of His godly fear, 8 though He was a Son, **yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered.**

9 And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him, 10 called by God as High Priest "according to the order of Melchizedek,"

And because of the rejection, suffering, false accusations, physical excruciating pain he went through and anguish – when you weep and are at a loss for words, our High Priest in heaven, Jesus the son of God – understands.

**Hebrews 4:15-16 HOLMAN**

**“For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses,** but One who has been tested in every way as we are, yet without sin. 16 Therefore let us approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive **mercy and find grace to help us at the proper time.** (“in time of need” – KJV)

Because of what Yeshua went through, he knows pain. He knows suffering. He knows what it's like to be human, what it's like to be rejected by his own friends and family and his own tribe!

In the same way, when we are the ones suffering, it is during those times when we are being perfected, completed, shaped to be what our God wants us to be.

***John 3:30 – “HE (Christ) must increase, I must decrease.”***

***Gal. 4:19 – “UNTIL Christ is FORMED in you.”***

**BEING MOLDED IN THE IMAGE OF Christ**



THERE'S more. Since you and are being fashioned in HIS IMAGE, ***we too, are being prepared to be priests and helpers of those*** who will have come through the worst time of trouble the world will have ever seen! How will we be empathetic to someone who lost his family in the hurricane, or lost the love of his life to cancer if we haven't gone through anguish ourselves?

**2 Corinthians 1:3-4**

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, 4 **who comforts us in all our tribulation (affliction, trials), *that WE may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble***, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.”

So just like Yeshua – we too will be better priests helping Christ because of all our pain. Our suffering and tests are not just about you or just about me. We're not going thru all we go through just for our own sake. WE are going thru pain and anguish and stress **because it's really about MILLIONS of people we are preparing to serve more effectively.** I know you know that, but a reminder always helps.

Today's message TITLE comes from 2 Corinthians 10. So now let's read it:

**2 Corinthians 12:7-10**

And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure. 8 Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me.

9 And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, **for MY strength is made perfect in weakness.**" [Let that sink in. Let's read it again.]

Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

*10 Therefore I take PLEASURE in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. **For when I am weak, then I am strong.***

**v. 9 again – HE said, “MY favor is sufficient for you, for MY strength is made perfect in weakness.”**

**Are you connecting the dots to Heb 11:34 – “in weakness were made strong”?**

Because Paul understood the purpose of suffering - he seemed at times to revel in it!

**2 Corinthians 4:7-12**

“But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the **power may be of GOD and not of us.**

8 We are hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; 9 **persecuted**, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed — 10 always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, **that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body.** 11 For we who live are always delivered to death for Jesus' sake, that the LIFE of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. 12 So then death is working in us, but life in you.”

I know that because of what I went through as a child in the Philippines, going through horrific typhoons (their equivalent of hurricanes), I could empathize with the people of Abaco Island, in the Bahamas, after Hurricane Dorian just seemed to park over their island for 36 hours. And nothing was left!

**But if we don't recognize the opportunity God is giving us when we hurt, when we're in pain, when we feel so alone, when we feel rejected even by GOD – where was he, we ask – if we fail to recognize what's really going on, we'll miss a lot of growth.**

**Losing our first son – has made us stronger and able to sympathize better to someone who has lost a child.**

Our life is really not about this life. It's about how what we go thru in this life is preparing us for our eternity, for what we'll be doing in the world to come and beyond... AND it's about learning to let God move in you, through you, to make you a walking, breathing, speaking Jesus Christ on earth

Remember it's HIS power that has to be demonstrated in us! Christ says to Paul and ALL of us “MY STRENGTH is sufficient for you”,... so Paul says, “therefore when I am weak, I am strong (in him).”

**WARNING AND DANGER as WE try to figure out our next move**

Many of us are do-it-yourselfers. We really don't like having to ask someone else to do something for us. This often translates into even our salvation and being able to let people see God in us: we would rather be responsible ourselves. But we can't save ourselves spiritually. The goal is what John the Baptist said: “HE must increase, but I must decrease” – John 3:30

Many of us, when faced with terrible situations, wrack our brains trying to figure out what we can do to solve this mess. We go around and around with this cancer, this persecution, this false accusation, this horrific pain we see our child going through – or whatever it is – and we try our best to figure out what we can do about it.

And that's normal... but get the high view of this as well: God is doing something to shape and mold you.

**So anyway, at some point we say, "I've given it all I've got.** I kept believing. I kept praying. I kept trying to be positive. I stayed up with --- all night long, night after night beside her bed in prayer. But, it's all over. My child still died. My finances were still stuck. (Whatever it was you were going thru or will go thru) I'm just demolished. I'm shot. I have nothing more to give. There's nothing more I can do."

**Guess what's just happened?**

GOD is **now ready for the next step.** In that moment, we're finally closer to actually letting him be our life, for HIM to move inside us and shape and mold us to be whom HE wants you to be and to become.

Heb 11:34 – "in weakness, were made strong."  
When I am WEAK , then he is strong,

**When you have nothing more left in you,** nothing more to give, you're ready to throw in the towel, you have no desire to even GO ON at all...and you're ready to think it's all over ---**NOW, Jesus Christ and God our Father say to us:**

*"NOW My GRACE CAN BE there for you. NOW MY strength is what will be EVIDENT in your life going forward. Now MY strength can be made PERFECT – in your weakness. And now I can be your strength, your power, your ability to go on, your hope, your dreams.."*

### **FOCUSING ON Christ AND PRAISING/BLESSING GOD**

So we're learning to become more like Yeshua in Gethsemane: "**NOT MY WILL, Father – but please – may YOUR will be done in my life.**"

When Yeshua was done praying and surrendering completely his own will, there was a complete peace after he first wrestled a bit with it all.

Paul AND SILAS show us a great example of how to handle pain and God letting all that happen. Their story is the point of this song "I bless your name" – by Selah. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gaVZonD1pcc>

**Acts 16:22-28**

Then the multitude rose up together against them; and the magistrates tore off their clothes and commanded them to be beaten with rods. 23 And when they had **laid many stripes on them (severely flogged)**, they threw them into prison, commanding the jailer to keep them securely. 24 Having received such a charge, he put them **into the inner prison** and fastened their feet in the stocks

**25 But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God**, and the prisoners were listening to them. 26 Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were loosed. 27 And the keeper of the prison, awaking from sleep and seeing the prison doors open, supposing the prisoners had fled, drew his sword and was about to kill himself. 28 But Paul called with a loud voice, saying, "Do yourself no harm, for we are all here."

Imagine what God was putting Paul and Silas through: beating, flogging, feet in stocks – and in their pain they began to sing and praise. Wow.

In YOUR midnight hour of pain and suffering, with your emotional bleeding stripes, sing out and praise and pray.... And GOD HEARS.

**JEHOSHAPHAT** – Please read the story in 2 Chronicles 20. Another example, that in the pain and testing – look to God, yes, but do more: start to praise and give him thanks IN and for the trial.

**2 Chronicles 20:12-23 (I'll pick up with the King's prayer)**

**12 O our God, will You not judge them? For we have no power against this great multitude that is coming against us; nor do we know what to do, but our eyes are upon You.**"

13 Now all Judah, with their little ones, their wives, and their children, stood before the Lord.

14 Then the Spirit of YHVH came upon Jahaziel the son of Zechariah, the son of Benaiah, the son of Jeiel, the son of Mattaniah, a Levite of the sons of Asaph, in the midst of the assembly. 15 And he said, "Listen, all you of Judah and you inhabitants of Jerusalem, and you, King Jehoshaphat! Thus says YHVH to you: 'Do not be afraid nor dismayed because of this

great multitude, for the battle is not yours, but God's. 16 Tomorrow go down against them. They will surely come up by the Ascent of Ziz, and you will find them at the end of the brook before the Wilderness of Jeruel. 17 **You will not need to fight in this battle.** Position yourselves, stand still and see the salvation of the Lord, who is with you, O Judah and Jerusalem!' Do not fear or be dismayed; tomorrow go out against them, **for YEHOVAH is with you."**

18 And Jehoshaphat bowed his head with his face to the ground, and all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem bowed before YHVH, worshiping the Lord. 19 Then the Levites of the children of the Kohathites and of **the children of the Korahites stood up to praise the Lord God of Israel with voices loud and high.**

20 So they rose early in the morning and went out into the Wilderness of Tekoa; and as they went out, Jehoshaphat stood and said, "Hear me, O Judah and you inhabitants of Jerusalem: Believe in the Lord your God, and you shall be established; believe His prophets, and you shall prosper."

21 And when he had consulted with the people, **he appointed those who should sing to YHVH, and who should praise the beauty of holiness, as they went out before the army** and were saying "Praise the Lord, For His mercy endures forever."

**22 Now when they began to sing and praise, YHVH set ambushes against the people of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir, who had come against Judah; and they were defeated.** 23 For the people of Ammon and Moab stood up against the inhabitants of Mount Seir to utterly kill and destroy them. And when they had made an end of the inhabitants of Seir, they helped to destroy one another.

***Praising in and FOR – and saying out loud we believe he is there, even IN the trial, like Paul and Silas.***

### **Let's put it all into practice**

In the very last year before Christ returns, and the last months and then days before, and then in the day he does return, when that last trumpet sounds, and the dead in Christ are raised FIRST to spirit immortality – and then all of us who remain are changed faster than you can blink ....

And people who were God's children who had died – are back! Back to life. There's your wife who died... There she is! There's your son who died in the

car accident. There's grandma and grandpa and your brother and a sister .... And so many friends you haven't seen for many years.

Your angel is zooming down; he's picking you up, raising you in the most exciting ride aloft you've ever had to date... and many thousands more are being gathered and we're coming together to meet our King and best Friend and Savior in the air!

Then I believe we are instantly transported to our heavenly city, Jerusalem above, and get our chance to meet God MOST High, God the Father while the 7 last plagues are running their course for many weeks on earth ....

Angels are singing. Thunder around the throne is rumbling. Lighting is flashing. There are 24 majestic elders around the throne,

Somehow – YOU, and yes even someone like me – find ourselves in the ultimate Holy of Holies in the presence of God Most High himself. And you look around and all the other mostly “nobodies” by the world's standard – are also there.

But somehow this bunch of Nerds and nobodies – are suddenly the first to be fully born into the family of God after Christ! You and me, suddenly called to rule the world with Christ.

**And I promise you, we'll forget about the cancer. You'll forget about the torture.** You'll not be thinking of all those trials you went through – and in fact it was THROUGH ALL THAT PAIN you went through that brought you to this GLORIOUS point!

**You see, one of his names is.... WONDERFUL.** Yes, even in our times of pain and anguish (and I'm still learning this too), his name is...WONDERFUL. He is full of wonder how he can take things so painful, things shattered into a million pieces –and show us HIS NEW finished work.

**“Behold, I make all things NEW”. Including you and me.** New creations in Christ. He is the Creator, not we ourselves. He is the creator of the New Creation, the new you, the new me.

**When we're done with all WE can do, and have nothing more to offer – now HE can really get to work on each of us.**

I guess, this sermon is urging you and is urging me myself too – like I urge Ollie –“TRUST ME”, GOD says, get to that point, let go of the pain and fear

and suffering – and trust him. Let him shine in you; let him do His work in you. Trust him, trust him, trust him.

And IN our trust, we bow and worship and say – “May your perfect will be done in my life. Mold me into your image. Shape me into your thoughts and being. Make me holy by your presence in me.”

Like Jesus, you were being perfected by the things which you suffered. And as we step on to the Sea of Glass and see millions of God's holy angels – **WE'LL BE HOME.**

**Can you imagine the message from our Father and our King too?**

“We'll soon be sending you back to earth with your king and husband, the Son of God.

“I'll need ALL of you, my sons and daughters, to fan out all over – starting in Jerusalem and fanning out – rebuilding hope, making dreams come true, putting concerns at ease, putting fears away – and showing the world for whom Jesus died and many of you suffered too – showing the world the NEW WAY we have. I need you to go HEAL people's hurts, heal their wounds, heal their diseases – and tell each one how much I love every single one of them...”

**Can you imagine?**

And when your time comes to meet face to face with your Savior and older Brother the Son of God – you will say, I'm sure, “It was an honor to suffer for your name's sake. Thank you for helping me through it ALL, difficult though it was. Thank you for completing me, for changing me, for making me brand new.”

We'll be home. It will be great to **have the whole family together** – ALL OF WHOM also went through their own Gethsemanes, their own fiery trials, their own tests of faith and patience, -- and like little Ollie in the beginning of my sermon, we all had to learn to trust Father. To trust Father.

And be all that we can be – by God's grace, by God's power, By Jesus' LIFE living strongly in us – and we're out of the way now. We've let go and let him be God.

Because – when I am weak, then I am strong by HIS power and might.

**2 Cor. 12:9-10 –**

“And He said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, **for MY strength is made perfect in weakness.**’ [Let that sink in. Let's read it again.] Therefore most **gladly** I will rather **boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.**

*10 Therefore I take **PLEASURE** in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. **For when I am weak, then I am strong.**"*

**Closing PRAYER** – “Father in heaven, WE come into your holy presence and offer you our worship, our reverence. Reveal your glory to your people, o God most holy. It's a tough lesson but you tell us that it is thru suffering that you are perfecting us in Christ, to be more and more like him. In all our pain, in our stress, in our sufferings – you are always there with us Father and Jesus; you are there with us every step of the way. And you know every detail we are going thru – and will go through.

But when WE feel like we can't do anything more, when we are WEAK – you show your glory and finish your work in us. For that we praise you and thank you.

Bless your people here and everywhere, dear God. Thank you for providing all our needs, and especially your Son Yeshua as our Bread of Life and Savior.”

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## I Bless Your Name Lyrics

### Selah

In prisoners' chains with bleeding stripes  
Paul and Silas prayed that night  
And in their pain began to sing  
Their chains were loosed and they were free

I bless Your name, I bless Your name  
I give You honor, give You praise  
You are the Life, the Truth, the Way  
I bless Your name, I bless Your name

Some midnight hour if you should find  
You're in a prison in your mind  
Reach out and praise, defy those chains  
And they will fall in Jesus' name

We bless Your name, we bless Your name  
We give You honor, give You praise  
You are the Life, the Truth, the Way  
We bless Your name, we bless Your name

You are the Life, the Truth, the Way  
We bless Your name, we bless Your name

Source: [LyricFind](#)

Songwriters: Elizabeth Goodine

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