



# The Mission Trail

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"LIFT UP YOUR EYES, AND LOOK ON THE FIELDS; FOR THEY ARE WHITE ALREADY TO HARVEST." — JOHN 4:35

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## Christian Trials - - Part 1

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Good morning, friends. It is indeed a privilege that I have to come your way another time by means of radio. I am going to talk to you about "Christian trials". This doesn't mean that everything that tries you is "Christian" but I do believe that every true saint of God is going to be tried, sometimes in various and sundry ways. Your trials might even seem to be peculiar ones and hard to understand. But then again that is part of the thing which makes it a trial. So to begin with let me give you this verse,

"Many shall be purified, and made white, and tried; but the wicked shall do wickedly: and none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand." Dan. 12:10 So you see, the Lord is going to prepare a people to inhabit the realms of heaven who have been tried and purified. It is not the unclean which are going to enter the pearly gates. They will be left on the outside. But those who are going to enter the joys of the Lord are the ones who will have been tried and proven. Are you willing for the Lord to put you in the furnace of trial? Well, I don't think any of us really enjoy it in a sense, but it surely does produce good effects for those who are true when tried.

Listen to this verse from Zech. 13:9, "And I will bring the third part through the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried: they shall call on my name, and I will hear them: I will say, It is my people: and they shall say, The Lord is my God." Observe from this text that it is the fire which refines the

pure gold. Then the dross can be skimmed off and thrown away, the undesirable is discarded, and it is the good which is brought out in trials and persecutions.

Listen to this scripture, "Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy." Those verses are found in I Peter 4:12, 13. Did you notice that it said to rejoice? That seems unusual, doesn't it? To ask a person to rejoice while he is in a trial. But that is what it says to do. The Lord knows it is going to work for our good and his glory if we are faithful. First Peter 1:7 puts it this way, "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". So you see, the trying of our faith is really a blessing, even though

it might be a blessing in disguise. We should always remember Rom. 8:28, "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose." So just bear in mind that these trials can not come to us unless God first permits them.

Now, remember this: If the Lord loves you, you must endure chastening. This is the correction which the Lord gives when he sees that we need it. Those who do not endure chastening are not the sons of God, for the father loves each of His children and he does chasten them when they need it. God forbid that we should be lukewarm and indifferent. Listen to these verses, "So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot: I will spue thee out of my mouth. Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see. As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent." Rev. 3:16-19

If you think you ought to be exempt from trials, listen to this verse, "Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution." II Tim. 3:12 Do you want to live a godly life? Do you really want to be separate from the world? Then you are bound to have persecutions.

But if you are really truly and diligently serving the Lord, then these verses ought to be a comfort to you: "These

things I command you, that ye love one another. If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you." John 15:17-19 And now this poem:

#### THE REFINER'S FIRE

He sat by a furnace of sevenfold heat,  
As He watched by the precious ore,  
And closer He bent with a searching  
gaze  
As He heated it more and more.

He knew He had ore that could stand  
the test,  
And He wanted the finest gold  
To mold as a crown for the King to  
wear,  
Set with gems of a price untold.

So He laid our gold in the burning fire,  
Though we fain would have said him  
nay;  
And He watched the dross that we had  
not seen,  
As it melted and passed away.

And the gold grew brighter and yet  
more bright,  
But our eyes were so dim with tears,  
We saw but the fire--not the Master's  
hand,  
And questioned with anxious fears.

Yet our gold shone out with a richer  
glow,  
As it mirrored a Form above,  
That bent o'er the fire though unseen  
by us,  
With looks of ineffable love.

Can we think that it pleases His loving  
heart  
To cause us a moment's pain?

Ah no! but He saw through the present  
cross  
The bliss of eternal gain.

So He waited there with watchful eye,  
With a love that is strong and sure,  
And His gold did not suffer a whit  
more heat  
Than was needed to make it pure.

Let us pray,

Our Father in heaven,

Even though our trials are hard to understand, we believe that all things do work together for good to them that love God. Bless each one today out there in the radio audience, who have their trials and problems. Sometimes they don't know what to do. We ask that you would give them divine wisdom and grace to be patient and victorious through Christ our Lord. Amen

Friends, I won't have time to finish up this subject of "Christian trials" this time, but if the Lord is willing I would like to bring you more of it next week. In the meantime if you would like to get our printed weekly copies of The Mission Trail you may have them without cost or obligation simply by writing to us in this way: The Mission Trail, Guthrie, Okla. I do hope you will be listening next week. I believe we have a little extra time for this song and I hope you will enjoy it. The arrangement is quite unique. There is just two singers on it, Lynn and Arnett Carver, that is all. But it is a double recording with the two of them singing all four parts. Here it is: "O Come Angel Band".

Dear ones, until we meet again this is Willie Murphey saying may God's richest blessings be with each of you and a very cheerful good-bye!

## Testimonies

From California: "We were awakened around 6:01 a.m. when the quake started. We just stayed where we were until it was over. It hit so fast we hardly had time to do otherwise, we were startled of course. My first thought was a plane was going over but another quick thought I knew it was an earthquake. Husband thought the house would probably fall down as it was shaking so hard and the awful grinding under the ground. It was quite an experience. Some people thought it was the end of time. We had little damage. We are so thankful. So many were not that fortunate. We feel the blessings of the Lord to us. Bro. Gene Fields was in the new convalescent hospital on the third floor when it went down. He came out uninjured to which we do praise the Lord, but three were killed. In the V. A. Hospital over forty were killed. One came out alive we feel was a direct answer to prayer, but there are so many dear people out of homes. They are unsafe to live in. They were, or some of them were, sleeping outside until this rain came last night. Some went back into their homes because of no place to go. It's truly sad. Our God is surely trying to awaken souls to their need of God. We believe some were awakened and pray they will do something about it and not go back to sleep. Truly in some places it is a major disaster. My heart and prayer was going out for other of the saints and our children. They say there will be another one larger than the one we just had. . . They are still working on the water lines to restore water to homes in the worst area. There was quite a lot of damage around us, but we were protected. Thank the Lord. . . . May our God bless you abundantly. Christian love and prayer"

--Bro. & Sis. Gene Harmon

From Mo.: "We appreciated getting to see you all at Nowata and felt that was a good place to be--Thought I would write a long over due letter but this may be my days work as it takes me a while to get my thoughts down on paper. I enjoy reading other's letters but seems I don't take the time to write very often, but any way we are still pressing on in the strait and narrow way and find Him more precious each day! I have been thinking how we walk by faith in the light of truth. The scripture says 'If we walk in the light, as he is in the light, ---the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.' God is light, and as we walk by faith each day He gives us more light, and as we step out in that light more follows. This way we can keep the heart purged. When we fail to walk in the light, it causes leanness in our souls, and if we refuse to walk therein, it causes rebellion and that is the fruit of the flesh. Many fail to repent of this and one must before they can enjoy His approval. Seems to me, many dear souls stumble here and the enemy gains his desire. No wonder we are exhorted 'Walk while ye have the light lest darkness come upon you.' The Lord blessed us recently with a precious meeting and seems we were instructed often in this meeting to look to the Lord earnestly for more faith and wisdom. I've been thinking quite a bit about it. Thought how this life of faith reaches every condition and circumstance, and there is nothing too small or too great to take to Him and expect his help. He is our wisdom for the word says, 'If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think

that he shall receive anything of the Lord.' I desire to keep humble and look to God for wisdom day by day, and walk in all His commandments and feel that would keep us in condition where we can look up to God for the things we desire for God's glory. For 'if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God. And whatsoever we ask, we receive of Him because we keep his commandments.' To me it is a privilege to be able to go to God in prayer, knowing that it is God's pleasure to do 'exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think.' Pray for us.

--Sis. Leta Inmann

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From Ill.: "I thank God for salvation and the hope I have of a better land than this old world. I'm glad Jesus promised us a mansion in Father's house--and that we look for a new heaven and a new earth wherein dwelleth righteousness. So glad I believe and trust the word of God--and have this hope that is an anchor to my soul. I can't imagine what it would be like to live without it--after having been a Christian for over 33 years. I do not know any other way to live--and when I see the ruin, trouble and sorrow that sin brings in the lives of those about me, I want no part of it. How thankful I am to have escaped the corruption that's in the world through lust! When the Lord first saved me I thought I loved Him. But oh! how much more I love Him today! For the years have only deepened my love as I have gained better understanding and knowledge of His goodness and righteousness, and faithfulness! I feel I love Him more than life itself--for He is my life, and I wouldn't want to live without Him . . . As always I covet the prayers of you all there and I do remember you all in mine. May God bless you and yours, and every true God-called minister. . ."

--Sis. Thelma Sprague

From Calif.: 'Greetings in Jesus dear name. He has been so good to us in sparing our lives through this terrible earthquake. I have been through several but nothing like this one. Our town was hard hit and many had their homes damaged and some lost. Had a big rain and then turned cold and couldn't stay in their homes. Can be so thankful the Lord had mercy on us. This has been so hard on my nerves so I do need your prayers'

--Edith Wittenborn

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From Ind.: "One and all, we are well so far, hoping all are well there. We received about a 4 inch snow; did not thaw hardly today. I would like to see it go into the ground. . . I still have to be in the house, snow on ground. Well, glad to have the snow. It is better than a rain."

--Michael Koehler

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"Greetings of love to you all. This leaves us both well as usual. . . Bro. Willie, we sure love to read the Mission Trail. We love to read the testimonies in it. It is food to our souls. I will say the Lord sure is good."

--Grace Koehler

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From Okla.: 'Well, praise the Lord. Isn't this a beautiful white morning? I didn't try to drive through to Guthrie this morning. . . We heard your message this morning over KGGF and thank the Lord for it. I wish we could have more good preaching on the radio. . . I sure enjoy the Mission Trail. May the Lord bless your every effort. Heaven is where we have started and we must press on. There is no turning back. . . I am thankful we have one that knows all about us and He cares. He will not allow one more trial than is needed to make us a fit subject for heaven. Love and prayers,'

--Sis. Emma Dilley

From Okla.: 'I am still saved and trusting the dear Lord for soul and body. I am not feeling so well today. I have a bad cold. I hope you all are enjoying the blessing of the dear Lord. I still enjoy reading the Mission Trail. Pray that I will be able to measure up to the word of God. May the Lord bless each of you is my prayer. Your sister as ever,'

--Mary May

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From Pa.: "Greetings in Jesus precious Name! What a wonderful Savior is Jesus my Lord! He walks beside in the way, and keeps me faithful every day. Oh! I do praise Him for all the blessings. We can call on Him day or night and He is always there. . . Mother was 86 yesterday (Feb. 22). Our family gathered in to help her celebrate. My sister ordered a decorated cake. She enjoyed it very much. My two brothers are on vacation in Florida and my two sisters live down there, so they called and talked to all of us. It was very nice and enjoyable. She is such a dear mother and has worked very hard all of her life. Today is like a March day. First the sun is out, then it flurries snow and the wind is blowing very hard so winter isn't over yet. We had 10 in. of snow and 7 in., so we have really had snow this winter. Offering enclosed. God bless you in your work and meet your every need and make you a blessing to those in need of a Savior. Your sister in His service,"

--Eva Cox

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What will you do without Him,  
When the great white throne is Set,  
And the Judge who never can mistake,  
And never can forget, --  
The Judge whom you have never here  
As Friend and Saviour sought,  
Shall summon you to give account  
Of deed and word and thought?

--Frances Ridley Havergal

