

3/15/2015
P.M. OUTLINE

EVERY CLOUD HAS A SILVER LINING

INTRODUCTION

(2 Cor. 4:8-11) "We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed ... "
(2 Cor. 6:3-10; 2 Cor. 4:16-18; 2 Cor. 5:1)

Words of the hymn: Every Cloud Has A Silver Lining

Suffering is not a respecter of persons.

Grief, suffering, troubles and trials, come from a variety of sources:

- 1) Because of the order of the universe, nature (acts of God).
- 2) Because of the choice of others - a nation declares war; employers make decisions to downsize, relocate, or go out of business; other's sins (drunk driver kills the innocent, criminal actions, terror attack such as on 9/11).
- 3) Because of our choices - (2 Tim. 3:12) "all who live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution;" our self-indulgence (abuse or excess of items); honest mistakes or "didn't mean to" situations; sin (Prov. 13:15) "way of transgressor is hard."
- 4) Because of the devil's work (2 Thess. 2:18, Eph. 6:11)

Society has developed slogans: "Look on the bright side" "Darkest hour right before daylight"
"A gem cannot be polished without friction" "It'll all come out in the wash" "Don't worry"

Poem by A.M. Overton

My Father's way may twist and turn, my heart may throb and ache;
But in my soul, I'm so glad to know He maketh no mistake.
My cherished plans may go astray, my hopes may fade away,
But still I trust my Lord to lead, for Father knows the way.
There's so much now I cannot see, my eye is still so dim,
But come what may, I still can trust and leave it all to Him.
For by and by the mist will lift, and darkness turn to day,
Then looking back, we'll praise His name, who led us all the way.

WHAT IS THE "SILVER LINING" IN MY STRUGGLES?

1. (Heb. 12:4-11) (v11) "... afterward it yields the peaceable fruit"

(v5) "despise not ... nor faint" (v7) "if ye endure chastening" (v10) "for our profit"

"Afterward" - being in the storm is not pleasant; however, later we reap the fruit.

We suffer the rigor of education to get the degree; daily work for a weekend paycheck;
we salve a sore for it to eventually heal.

2. Struggles cause me not to be satisfied with this life.

Heaven is not on this earth. So, we sing: This World Is Not My Home; Camping Toward
Canaan's Land; To Canaan's Land I'm On My Way

3. Struggles cause me to be sympathetic toward another's struggles.

I say to them, "I know something about what you are going through" "May I help?"

4. Struggles cause me to have confidence to overcome in a different struggle of mine.

Because I got through a previous trial, I can get through this one, too.

5. My struggles give confidence to others that they may overcome theirs, too.

Others may say, "If Brian can get through it, so can I" and "Maybe he can help me."

6. Struggles give me patience.

Having overcome lesser struggles, I can get through the tougher ones.
(Romans 5:3) "tribulation works patience" (James 1:2) "your faith works patience"

7. Struggles provide a check on my evil tendencies.

Knowing an attitude or action of mine hurt me or another, I'm not doing it again.

8. Struggles cause me to appreciate the good times.

Work hard and appreciate the rest; been ill and appreciate health;
been lonely and appreciate friends; etc.

9. Struggles verify God's teaching.

(Psalm 119:71) "It is good for me that I have been afflicted; that I might learn thy statutes"

God, as a Father, permits me to suffer some things because it's for my profit.
So I learned "preventive medicine," too.

CLOSE - (Romans 8:17-18) "and if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and
joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may also be glorified with him.
The sufferings of this present time are not to be compared with the glory
which shall be revealed in us."

Hymns: "Farther Along" and "Trials Dark On Every Hand"