

INTRODUCTION

Life is filled with problems, difficulties, struggles, and hardships.

We ask ourselves, "Will I ever get through this?" Answer, "Yes."

And "afterward" ask, "Now, what is the proper response?"

1. **"THROUGH"** - into one side **and out** the other; from beginning **to end**; to **completion**; getting from one point of origin **to destination**; **accomplished**; **realized**; **attained**.

(Deuteronomy 2:7) " ... He knows **your trudging through** this great wilderness ... "
(Joshua 1:2) "Now therefore, arise, go over this Jordan."

(Psalm 23:4) "Yea, though **I walk through the valley** ... "

(Psalm 66:6) " ... They **went through the river** ... we will rejoice in Him"

(Psalm 106:8-10) " ... He led them **through the depths**, as **through the wilderness** ... "

(Isaiah 43:1-3) " ... When you pass **through the waters** ... **through the rivers** ...
through the fire ... for I am the Lord your God"

(Job 29:1-3) " ... when by His light **I walked through the darkness.**"

(1 Corinthians 10:13) "No temptation has overtaken you except as is common to man,
but God is faithful, who **will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able**,
but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it"

Booker T. Washington (1856 – 1915) coined the phrase: "the advantage of disadvantage"

Saying: "Similar hardships make some people **bitter** and some people **better.**"

2. **"AFTERWARD"** - (**Hebrews 12:11**) "Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, **afterward ("through") it yields** the peaceable fruit of righteousness **to those who have been trained by it.**"

Note when problems lead us to praise, when problems "yield" good things,
when a disadvantage becomes an advantage, when problems result in a benefit.

- 1) **When they cause us to depend more upon God, humble us.**

Hardships can help us learn that we need God in our lives. (Psalm 46:1; 18:1-3)
Hardships often improve our prayer lives. (Psalm 34:18-19; Ephesians 6:18)

- 2) **When they make us more compassionate toward others.** (2 Corinthians 1:3-4)
" ... and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our tribulation, **that we may be able**
to comfort those who are in trouble, with the comfort which we are comforted by God"

- 3) When they cause us to have a stronger desire for heaven.
- 4) When they cause me to have confidence to get "through" the next problem.
- 5) When my getting "through" this gives confidence to others to get through theirs.
- 6) When they produce patience in me. (Romans 5:3-4; James 1:2-3)
- 7) When they cause me to appreciate the good times.
 Work hard and appreciate the rest; been ill and appreciate health;
 been lonely and appreciate friends; etc.
- 8) When they drive me to learn God's word.

(Psalm 119:62) "At **midnight** I will rise to give thanks to You, because of Your righteous judgments." (v71) "It is good for me that **I have been afflicted**, that I might learn Your statutes."

CLOSE - (Romans 8:18) "For I **consider that** the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed."

My Father's way may twist and turn,
 My heart may throb and ache;
 But in my soul I'm 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.