



“The righteous cry and the Lord hears *them* and delivers them out of all their troubles. The Lord is near to those who are of a broken heart, and He saves such as have a contrite spirit. Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivers him out of them all.” Psalm 34:17-18

We live in a fallen world. It is full of troubles, struggles and problems. As the Church began to lose the revelation of an ever present and personal God Who is willing and even thrilled to intervene in the lives of His people, we began to put greater emphasis upon that which we could do rather than on what God could and would do for us. The Church world has spent great effort and time explaining life’s various problems must be endured and that the believer must learn to somehow get through these problems the best he can relying upon the Lord only to give him the grace to endure – not to overcome! Of course, there is an obligatory, and o so religious sounding assurance given that one day, when we get to Heaven, everything will be trouble free. But for right now – “you’re out of luck, do the best you can until then!”

We need to understand, that this is a truth, but not all of the truth. The Lord’s emphasis is always and foremost about our being conformed into the image of Jesus. Theological thought that only emphasizes the present struggle with the future life in heaven being the only avenue of rescue robs us of an dynamic and living faith. Such faith is bold in believing that our God can also transform us in the midst of victory! Defeat, struggle and heartache are not the teachers nor are they the transformer of the people of God! That is reserved for the Holy Spirit alone!

Of course, life is full of troubles and afflictions. And yes, we need to learn to patiently endure – but, that doesn’t mean we must give up or acquiesce to these predicaments. But the ear of the Lord is open to hear our cry and His intent is to deliver us from all our troubles! He sees your brokenness of heart and He is near to you in these moments. Yes, He wants your character to be like Jesus’, but He also wants to deliver you out of every affliction!

Our God is God and He is big enough to do both – to deliver us and to transform us!

Alleluia!

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