

## **Dear God... Please Heal!**

Encouragement in the midst of suffering.

April 17-18, 2010

### **1. God has not forgotten you.**

The Lord hears his people when they call to him for help. He rescues them from all their troubles. The Lord is close to the brokenhearted; he rescues those whose spirits are crushed.

*Psalm chapter 34, verses 17-18 (428)*

- You are loved by God.
- You are not alone.
- God knows and understands your pain.

### **2. You are stronger than you think.**

Each time he said, "My gracious favor is all you need. My power works best in your weakness." So now I am glad to boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may work through me.

*2 Corinthians chapter 12, verse 9 (888)*

- Real strength is not a result of physical health but rather spiritual life.
- Feed your heart and soul with God and His word.
- God's power is best displayed through the weak and hurting.

As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth. "Rabbi," his disciples asked him, "why was this man born blind? Was it because of his own sins or his parents' sins?" "It was not because of his sins or his parents' sins," Jesus answered. "This happened so the power of God could be seen in him. *John chapter 9, verses 1-3 (818)*

### **3. God wants to use you.**

All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is our merciful Father and the source of all comfort. He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others. When they are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us. For the more we suffer for Christ, the more God will shower us with his comfort through Christ. Even when we are weighed down with troubles, it is for your comfort and salvation! For when we ourselves are comforted, we will certainly comfort you. Then you can patiently endure the same things we suffer. We are confident that as you share in our sufferings, you will also share in the comfort God gives us. *2 Corinthians chapter 2, verses 3-7 (882)*

- *Your pain and God's comforts are valuable tools.*
- *Bitterness and anger are the enemies of God's comfort.*
- *Be willing to share in each other's sufferings.*
- *God's grace is present in every circumstance, so look for it.*

#### **4. Your suffering is nothing compared to heaven.**

For our present troubles are small and won't last very long. Yet they produce for us a glory that vastly outweighs them and will last forever! *2 Corinthians chapter 4, verse 17 (884)*

- An eternal perspective makes suffering more bearable.
- Suffering makes heaven that much more desirable.

Yet what we suffer now is nothing compared to the glory he will reveal to us later. For all creation is waiting eagerly for that future day when God will reveal who his children really are. Against its will, all creation was subjected to God's curse. But with eager hope, the creation looks forward to the day when it will join God's children in glorious freedom from death and decay.

*Romans chapter 8, verses 18-23 (862)*

#### **5. You are becoming more like Jesus.**

I am glad when I suffer for you in my body, for I am participating in the sufferings of Christ that continue for his body, the church. *Colossians chapter 1 verse 24 (902)*

- Since Jesus suffered on this earth I must suffer also.
- All suffering has a purpose.
- If I want to suffer "like" Christ I need to have more of him.
- It's not you being like Christ rather its Christ in you.

For God knew his people in advance, and he chose them to become like his Son, so that his Son would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. *Romans chapter 8, verse 29 (862).*

#### **6. Prayer is Powerful!**

Are any of you suffering hardships? You should pray. Are any of you happy? You should sing praises. Are any of you sick? You should call for the elders of the church to come and pray over you, anointing you with oil in the name of the Lord. Such a prayer offered in faith will heal the sick, and the Lord will make you well. *James chapter 5, verses 13-15 (932)*

- Pray regularly for others.
- Never stop asking for God to heal and restore.
- Believe that God is able to heal you.
- Prayer is comforting.

*Next Week: Dear God... open my eyes to the needs of the world.*