
Psalm 119:67, 71 Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I obey your word. It was good for me to be afflicted so that I might learn your decrees.

4. We Rejoice.

• R.

Matthew 5:12 Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

2 Cor. 4:17 *For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.*

• A.

2 Cor. 4:18 *So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.*

2 Tim. 4:7 *I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day--and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.*

Key: Page 1: In. Page 2: Through. Price. Page 3: Reign; Honored; Purified. priorities. drives. Page 4: Reward. Anticipation.

You Have a Story to Tell

Life's Healing Choices—part 8 of 8

December 6, 2009

LEFT WINDOW

Why me?
Anger, Anxiety
Insistent
Relief
Critical
Please "Self"
Conflict
Protect "Self"

RIGHT WINDOW

Humility
Hope
Surrender
Hunger
Merciful
Purifying
Building
Story to tell

Matthew 5:10 Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. (11) Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. (12) Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

1. God's Story In You.

Galatians 4:19 My dear children, for whom I am again in the pains of childbirth until Christ is formed in you...

Colossians 1:27 To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

Galatians 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

2. God's Story Through You.

Matthew 5:13 "You are the salt of the earth. ¹⁴ "You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.

Acts 1:8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Philippians 2:14-16 Do everything without complaining or arguing, ¹⁵ so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe ¹⁶ as you hold out the word of life....

3. God's Story: A Price to Pay.

Matt. 5:11 "...persecuted ... because of me...insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me."

The Joy(!) of Persecution

Matt. 5:10-12 "Blessed...rejoice and be glad..."

1. We R_____.

"...for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

2. We're H_____.

Ac. 5:41 The apostles left the Sanhedrin rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name.

Philip. 3:10 I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death,

3. Were P_____.

1 Peter 4:1-2 Therefore, since Christ suffered in his body, arm yourselves also with the same attitude, because he who has suffered in his body is done with sin. [2] As a result, he does not live the rest of his earthly life for evil human desires, but rather for the will of God.

• Suffering hones our real p_____.

• Suffering d_____ us to God.
