
1 Peter 4:8 Above all, hold unfailing your love for one another since love covers a multitude of sins.

Hosea 5:14 "For I will be like a lion to Ephraim, like a great lion to Judah. I will tear them to pieces and go away; I will carry them off, with no one to rescue them."

Hosea 5:15 "Then I will go back to my place until they admit their guilt. And they will seek my face; in their misery they will earnestly seek me."

Misery:

Confidence in God, Why Do We Miss It?
Connect: Seeking God With All Your Heart--part 3

February 28, 2010

Hebrews 3:8 do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion, during the time of testing in the desert,

Deut. 13:3 The LORD your God is testing you to find out whether you love him with all your heart...

James 1:2 Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, ³ because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. ⁴ Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

■ Our confidence in any given circumstance, that... ■

- God is working,
 - To conform me enough to the image of His Son
 - that I can be intimate with Christ, and
 - Honor Him in my trial.
-

2 Corinthians 1:8 We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about the hardships we suffered in the province of Asia. We were under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure, so that we despaired even of life. ⁹ Indeed, in our hearts we felt the sentence of death.

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2 Cor. 1:9 ...But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead. ¹⁰ He has delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us. On him we have set our hope that he will continue to deliver us, ¹¹ as you help us by your prayers. Then many will give thanks on our behalf for the gracious favor granted us in answer to the prayers of many.

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Modern Christianity has declined into a ‘useful’ Christianity which honors our desire to enjoy what we want, more than it honors God’s desire to enjoy a trust from His people that no suffering can dislodge.

■ ■

Hosea 5:13 "When Ephraim saw his sickness, and Judah his sores, then Ephraim turned to Assyria, and sent to the great king for help. But he is not able to cure you, not able to heal your sores."

Luke 7:19 "Are you the one...or should we look for another?"

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Luke 17:23 "Blessed is the man who doesn't fall away on account of me."

3 Ways We Turn to Assyria...

1 Peter 4:19 So then, those who suffer according to God's will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good.

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- **We package God into someone manageable.**

- **We try to understand the cause of our problems more than find Christ in the midst of problems.**

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- **We work too hard to build tension-free relationships.**

Colossians 3:13 Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.
