

What does it take to be a Man of God?

Part II

We will finish up our discussion today on what it takes to be a man of God. I want to make it clear that God uses failure to produce godliness in each of us. We hear so much talk today about how to be successful. The cold hard truth is God uses pain, torment, sorrow, and failure to produce the men and women who work in His service.

There are three trials that every true man and woman of God eventually will confront:

I. A Cup of Pain-To be a man or woman of God, you must at some point be served a cup of pain. Listen to Jesus' words in the Garden: "O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless, not as I will, but as thou wilt" (Matthew 26:39).

Jesus had spent His whole ministry fulfilling the will of the Father. For three years His life and mission had headed straight toward His cup of pain: The Cross of Calvary. Whatever pain was in that cup forced Jesus to sweat drops of blood and to cry out, "O God, if it's at all possible, deliver Me. I'd rather let this cup pass; it's too heavy a burden for Me!"

2. A Night of Confusion-To be a man or woman of God, you also must face a night of confusion. Jesus said, "My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even unto death" (Matthew 26:38). Can you imagine the Son of God saying this? Didn't He know He was about to claim all victory over hell, death and the grave? After all, He had told His disciples, "A little while, and ye shall not see me...because I go to the Father" (John 16:16). He knew in His prophetic vision He would face this hour.

Yet the hardest part of faith is the last half hour. The night of confusion always comes just before the victory, just before the light dawns. But rest

assured, before the power of Satan is broken; you'll face your night of confusion.

3. An Hour of Isolation-Finally, as a man or woman of God you must face an hour of isolation. These words came from the lips of Jesus, God's own Son: "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" (Matthew 27:46). Job said of God, "He's become cruel to me. I cry in the day and I rise in the night, but He hears me not." David said, "I am forgotten as a dead man out of mind" (Psalm 31:12). He also cried out, "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? Why art thou so far from helping me?" (Psalm 22:1).

The hour of isolation comes when it appears God has hidden His face, and none of your friends truly understand what you are going through. Let me assure you that God NEVER leaves His children. God's children make the mistake of letting go of His hand then wonder why we are all alone.

Do you have the desire to be the man or woman fit for God to use? Pray for a willing heart.