

Carry Out the Mission

Life has obstacles, life is often filled with tribulation, and appears extremely difficult at times (especially when observed through the natural eyes).

During these times, we are tempted to slow down, back off or come to a complete stop. Many times we end up stopping with no desire to move on. We need to always keep in mind that we are just part of the puzzle, not the whole puzzle. We have got to recognize that our lives are not our own.

Acts 20:24, "Paul said, "But I don't place any value on my own life. I want to finish the race I'm running. I want to carry out the mission I received from the Lord Jesus, the mission of testifying to the Good News of God's kindness."

We must move forward. And moving forward (without looking back) takes effort of will. We must press forward with faith during these painful times. That's when we will see His sovereign hand at work in us and through us.

God used Paul to write 13 of the 27 books of the New Testament. There is a message God is trying to give us by that truth alone!! The more difficulties, the more fully you know Him and are used by Him. Paul was often encouraging believers that God will use what happens in our lives to help others.

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God" (2 Corinthians 1:3-4).

Trust in God's plan, not your plans! if you are trying to control your life, if you are relying on your own intellect, your own talent and strength to get through life, you are making a huge mistake!

Paul had to learn these things too. He wrote all those books and passages and yet there is no record ever showing that he had known Jesus personally prior to the crucifixion of Christ. And yet, I think we can all agree that Paul understood his life wasn't about himself, that it comes with difficulties and He knew God would use the difficulties for His Kingdom.

That means Paul had to receive Christ by faith and get to know him just as we do. Paul had to trust Christ just like we do. Paul's only connection to God was the same way we're connected, by faith and faith alone.

But you gotta deal with what you got! Paul dealt with a lot too. Paul knew that the only way to progress in his walk with the Lord was by faith! He could have

stopped after getting stoned. No one would have said a word to him or blame him for stopping, but he didn't. In fact, after being stoned he wrote, "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose" (Romans 8:28).

God has a purpose for you that is greater than your wishes, ambition, occupation or even your happiness. The word "purpose" in this form is mentioned at least 42 times in the Bible. I'd say it means something don't you?

God's plan for you requires that you know Him and trust Him in all things, at all times, regardless of what you are experiencing in the natural. By trusting Him, you are completely committed to knowing Him. By trusting Him you are saying that you believe He will work all things out for your good.

Listen, the enemy knows you were created by God, for God, and this enemy hates you for it. He's doing whatever he can to make sure that you don't know God or God's plan for you. You've got to let go of your thoughts, your plans, your ideas and your perceptions.

Paul could write Romans 8:28 because he believed it. Paul knew he could trust Him- because Paul knew Him. Do you understand what that means? It means that God is working through everything that happens in your life.

No matter what the problem or heartache may be, if you love Him and trust Him, even the problems you face in life will be part of the glorious process of getting to know Him and you will move forward in that confidence!

Dr. Gina Cobb
September 9, 2016