

Tough Times Don't Last; Tough People Do!

Tattered – Old, torn, in poor condition,

When you've been tattered and endured, you are tough. "Tattered": *Shabby, worn-out, frayed, broken, threadbare, bombed-out, beat-up, miserable, neglected, abandoned, unkept, tired, hurt, impaired, injured, wrecked, sick, or just plain ole tuckered out.*

“What comes to mind is a tattered bible. Which is the evidence of a life that when your bible is falling apart, that your life is not. Tattered trees tell a story. A Tattered people have weathered the storms of life. A tattered woman's face shows the beauty of her endurance. A great gift in life is to see beauty where others do not. When we see that tattered look, may we bring comfort and compassion, and sigh with the one who is hurting and grieving. We have all been tattered at some point in our lives, it's those beautiful times we have felt the comfort of the Holy Spirit. Let's be grateful that we have found the good Lord and our tattered pages have turned into a testimony.” Stephanie

Tough – strong enough to withstand adverse conditions or rough or careless handling. Able to endure hardship and pain. When you've been **tattered** and endured, you are **tough**.

We are in tough times right now. What are tough times designed to do to us?

What is all our warfare about? 2020 Problems? This has been a difficult year. We are fighting against a hidden enemy! Satan, Lucifer, *the Devil* is trying to block the good news from shining in our lives. (Grief, sickness, financial, broken relationships)

1. Satan, who is the god of this world, has blinded the minds of those who don't believe. (that includes Broken Believers too)

2 Cor. 4: 3-7 NLT ³If the Good News we preach is hidden behind a veil, it is hidden only from people who are **perishing**. ⁴Satan, who is the god of this world, has blinded the minds of those who **don't believe**. They are **unable to see** the glorious light of the Good News. They **don't understand** this message about the glory of Christ, who is the exact likeness of God. ⁵You see, we don't go around preaching

about **ourselves**. We preach that Jesus Christ is Lord, and we ourselves are your servants for Jesus' sake. ⁶ For God, who said, "Let there be light in the darkness," has made this light shine in our hearts so we could know the glory of God that is seen in the face of Jesus Christ. ⁷ We now have this light shining in our hearts, but we ourselves are **like fragile clay jars containing this great treasure**.^[b] This makes it clear that our great power is from God, not from ourselves.

2. Look at the answers - not the problems: 2 Cor.4:8-9 ⁸ We are pressed on every side by troubles, but we are not crushed. We are perplexed, but not driven to despair. ⁹ We are hunted down, but never abandoned by God. We get knocked down, but we are not destroyed.

2 Cor.4:10-12 ¹⁰ Through suffering, our bodies continue to share in the death of Jesus so that the life of Jesus may also be seen in our bodies.¹¹ Yes, we live under **constant danger of death** (Not Corona Virus) BUT because we **serve Jesus**, so that the life of Jesus will be **evident** in our dying bodies. ¹² So we live in the face of death, **but this** has resulted in eternal life for you (Because we believe in him, he shines through in our hearts)

3. Look inside for strength not outside: 2 Cor. 4:13 ¹³ But we continue to preach (proclaim the gospel) because we have the same kind of **faith** the psalmist had when he said, "**I believed in God, so I spoke**

4. Look toward eternity instead of temporary: 2 Cor 4:16-18 ¹⁶ That is why we **never give up**. Though our bodies are dying, our spirits are^[e] being renewed every day. ¹⁷ 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! ¹⁸ So we don't look at the troubles we can see now; rather, we fix our gaze (Fix your sights on winning the battle) on things that cannot be seen. For the things we see now will soon be gone, but the things we cannot see will last forever.

Mothers Passing: I lay in bed 50 years later I reflected on the past. After my Mother passed, my family ask me to do the funeral / my sister gave me a poem Mother copied from The Good Housekeeping magazine in 1936.

Read Poem: "A Little Parable for Mothers" Written By: Temple Bailey, 1936; read by Nila Hagood

The young mother set her foot on the path of life. "Is this the long way?" she asked. **And the Guide said**, "Yes, and the way is hard. And you will be old before you reach the end of it. But the end will be better than the beginning."

The young mother was happy, and she would not believe that anything could be better than these years. So, she played with her children, she fed them and bathed them, taught them how to tie their shoes and ride a bike, and reminded them to feed the dog and do their homework and brush their teeth.

The sun shone on them and the young mother cried, "Nothing will ever be lovelier than this."

Then the nights came, and the storms, and the path was sometimes dark, and the children shook with fear and cold, and the mother drew them close and covered them with her arms. The children said, "Mother, we are not afraid, for you are near, and no harm can come." And the Mother said, "This is better than the brightness of day, for I have taught my children – courage."

And the morning came, and there was a hill ahead, and the children climbed and grew weary, and the mother was weary. But at all times she said to the children, "A little patience and we are there." So, the children climbed and when they reached the top they said, "We could not have done it without you, Mother."

And the Mother when she laid down that night, looked up at the stars and said, "This is the better day than the last, for my children have learned fortitude in the face of hardness. Yesterday I gave them courage. Today I have given them strength."

The next day strange clouds came and darkened the sky-clouds of war hate and evil-and the children groped and stumbled, and the Mother said, "Look up. Lift your eyes to the Light." And the children looked and saw above the clouds an Everlasting Glory, and it guided them and brought them beyond the darkness. And that night the Mother said, "This is the best day of all, for I have shown my children-God."

The days went on, and the weeks and the months and the years. The mother grew old and she became little and bent. But her children were tall and strong, and walked with courage.

And when the way was rough they lifted her, for she was as light as a feather. And at last they came to a hill, and beyond the hill they could see a shining road, and golden gates flung wide.

And the Mother said I have reached the end of my journey. And now I know that the end is better than the beginning for my children can walk alone, and their children after them. And the children said, "You will always walk with us, Mother, even when you have gone through the gates."

And they stood and watched her as she went on alone and the gates closed after her. And they said, "we cannot see her but she is with us still. A Mother like her is more than a Memory. She is a living Presence."

**I learned this 50-year journey: Courage, Fortitude, AND I received Jesus Christ
I have a word from the Lord today, and this is a Faith declaration statement filled
with hope. This word comes from Isaiah 43: 2-4, 18-19, 25 (NIV)**

²When you pass through the waters,
I will be with you;
and when you pass through the rivers,
they will not sweep over you.
When you walk through the fire,
you will not be burned;
the flames will not set you ablaze.

³For I am the Lord your God,
the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.

⁴Since you are precious and honored in my sight,
and because I love you,

¹⁸**"Forget** the former things;
do not dwell on the past.

¹⁹ See, I am doing a new thing!

Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?

I am making a way in the wilderness

and streams in the wasteland.

Closing Prayer 25 “I, even I, am he who blots out
your transgressions, for my own sake,
and remembers your sins no more.