

THE RADIANT CHURCH

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"Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless." (Ephesians 5:25-27, NIV)

The word **radiant** in Greek translates as **stīlbō**. Which means "to shine, to glisten". For something to glisten, it has to go through a process of cleansing; As followers of Christ, God has called us to shine.

We are the *ekklēsia* - The _____ called out from where we were to where God wants us to be; And that journey from where we were to where God wants us to be is a _____ that God takes us through in order for His _____ to be revealed.

*"The Bible warns that **the Christian life is not** a bed of roses but a battle, a warfare, a conflict." Billy Graham*

"I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world." (John 16:33, NLT)

He promises to _____. With God, we have the assurance that we are _____ alone.

"What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?" (Romans 8:31, NKJV)

"I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you. However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven." (Luke 10:19-20, NIV)

"If God answers every single time we prayed, we might devalue prayer and Him. Whether you call it the divine tease or God playing hard to get, it is for our good". R.T Kendall

"But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control..." (Galatians 5:22, NLT)

The _____ and _____ we face are part of the _____ process. It involves trimming, cutting away and removing dead and unwanted parts in order to encourage growth. God wants us to understand that every branch He prunes, He does it so it can bear more fruit (John 15:1-2).

There's a glory that awaits us (Matthew 11:28-30).

God is indeed gracious to the weary and the weak (Hebrews 12:1-2)

"The God of the Bible is a God of glory (Acts 7:1-2). Whatever He does, it is for His glory. The longer He waits, the greater the glory. The greater the suffering for us, the greater the glory for Him. But it also means greater the reward and greater the joy for us" R.T Kendall

“... My dear child, don’t shrug off God’s discipline, but don’t be crushed by it either. It’s the child He loves that He disciplines; the child He embraces, He also corrects. God is educating you, that’s why you must never drop out. He is treating you as dear children. This trouble you’re in isn’t punishment, it’s training, the normal experience of children. But God is doing what is best for us, training us to live God’s holy best. At the time, discipline isn’t much fun. It always feels like it’s going against the grain. Later, of course, it pays off handsomely, for it’s the well-trained who find themselves mature in their relationship with God.”
(Hebrews 12:4-11, MSG)