

Thanks & Living

Week 3 Devotion by Josie Siler

“Praise our God, all peoples, let the sound of his praise be heard; he has preserved our lives and kept our feet from slipping. For you, God, tested us; you refined us like silver. You brought us into prison and laid burdens on our backs. You let people ride over our heads; we went through fire and water, but you brought us to a place of abundance.”
~Psalm 66:8-12

Life is not easy. We go through many hard times in life and it's easy to question God. Why wouldn't He spare us from the pain? I love that the book of Job shows us that anything we endure God has allowed. This may seem cruel, but God is not cruel. He is love and it is His love for us that allows us to go through difficult times in life. It is through testing and trials that we become more like Jesus. We are refined like silver and have the opportunity to come out on the other side of our trials stronger and closer to God. Make no mistake, we don't go through our trials alone. Jesus is with us and He will strengthen us, preserve us, and bring us to a place of abundance. John 10:10 says that Jesus has come to give us an abundant life. There is an intimacy with Christ that is forged in the depths of our darkest trials and because of that, we can be thankful. Oh sure, we can choose to be bitter, but if we do, the only one we'll be hurting is ourself. God wants us to thrive in life and He'll help us do that, even if the path that gets us there goes through a dark tunnel for a while. If you're in that dark tunnel today, remember that Jesus isn't just the light at the end of the tunnel, He's the light in you. Let Him shine in the darkness and illuminate your path.

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, I praise You. Thank You for preserving my life and keeping my feet from slipping on the murky paths in life. Thank You that my suffering isn't in vain, but that You're using it to draw me closer to You and to refine me and shape me into the likeness of Your Son, Jesus. Lord, the journey seems so long. It's hard and sometimes I don't think I'll make it. But I know that You love me and want good for me. Thank You for being with me in the midst of the hard things in life. Thank You for never abandoning me. I trust You to bring me to a place of abundance. I trust Your timing and Your good plan for my life. I praise You from the depths of my weary heart and accept the strength and freedom found in You, Jesus. I love You! Amen.