

**TESTIMONY**  
***JUNE 3<sup>RD</sup>, 1987***

And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it. ~ 1 Corinthians 12:26

Three types of storms...

- We cause.
  - Others cause.
  - God causes.
1. We never know ahead of time the things God has planned for us (Acts 9:15-16).

But the Lord said to him, "Go for he is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My Name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel. For I will show him how many things he must suffer for My Names sake." ~Acts 9:15-16

...He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His Name's sake.  
~ Psalm 23:3

God knows ahead of time be He is in non way obligated to warn us about it or to remind us it's on the horizon!

**A vertical perspective keeps us from horizontal panic!**

2. Never underestimate the power of prayer.
  - My mom.
  - North Fairfield Baptist Church
3. Trust: if you trust Me I will use you!
  - You can trust His word.
  - God always comes thru.—pay check is in the mail!
4. The joy of the Lord is my strength!

[in the car]

[in the emergency room]

[in recovery]

[in intensive care]

[In therapy—charlie the tuna]

5. Peace: the peace that passes all understanding; a peace that words cannot describe.
6. How God speaks today:
  - His Word.
  - The Holy Spirit.

[Pain is now your reality—you can lay here in this bed and be in pain; you can get out of this bed and be in pain. Either way, you're gonna be in pain—you choose.

- Circumstances - Circumstances do not make you what you are...they reveal what you are!

When you get squeezed the real you comes out!

7. It won't be boring (1 Peter 1;7-8; 5:6-7)

***To choose suffering makes no sense at all; to choose God's will in the midst of suffering makes all the sense in the world.***

***~ Oswald Chambers***

8. Be ready for anything and be prepared for a whole new way of thinking!
9. Suffering allows God to be glorified before others.
10. Suffering and problems always provides us with greater opportunities.
11. Suffering promotes spiritual growth.
12. Suffering proves your integrity.
13. Suffering prepares our heart for ministry to others.

***The blessings of God are not evident by the lessening of suffering but by the lessons received by it!***