**GOD IS WORKING ON US**

MAKING SOMETHING BEAUTIFUL AND WORTHY FOR ETERNITY

*Written By: Tommy Romans November 2022*

**Jas 5:10** Take, my brethren, the prophets, who have spoken in the name of the Lord, for an example of suffering affliction, and of patience.

 **11** Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy.

 In this Newsletter, we’ll endeavor to answer the question – “Why do the Righteous suffer? What purpose is there in our trials? What good can come out of our afflictions?” We must know that the world we live in is testing ground, the curse of sin is all around us. We all have our ups and downs, our good times and bad. We will never get out of this world without suffering. I thank my God for every blessing that we receive but remember – in this life we will have pains and losses, afflictions, trials and crosses. So many times we question just like Job, David, Jeremiah and the prophets and many others – Why O God? When dear Jesus? How much longer O Lord?

Our life is like a tapestry, it’s made up of both bright colored threads and dark ones intertwined and woven together and it doesn’t make sense till the work is finished and the frame is turned over, then you can see the whole picture. You will understand that it took the dark threads to make the bright colored ones really stand out and shine! Don’t forget, the Master Weaver has us in his frame and He works on us many days, months and years. Sometimes you will feel you’re upside down where you’re at and it won’t make sense but remember, the frame is still in His hand, He has not left you! God is conforming you to the image of His Son! You must trust Him and let Him have His way!! Trust His hand for each thread that is woven and you will soon know the Love and Grace of God!!

Don’t ever forget dear reader – whatever you face and the hard times you go through, if you’ll be patient, love and serve the Lord, He is working in you and He will bring out something good and beautiful for His glory. You are His work of Heart (Art). Others will see His love and work in you. He's building in you a Praise for eternity. You are important to the Lord, yield to His infinite hands and let Him complete His work and then you will see your rejoicing will come!!

**Rom. 8:18** For I **reckon** that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed **in us**.

 What are you saying to us apostle Paul in this verse? The Greek word for reckon means to take inventory, to add and count it all up. If you had a pair of scales and you put all the bad and hard things in life, all the afflictions, sufferings and trials on one side of the scales, it’s nothing compared with the Glory that awaits you on the other side of the scales! God’s glory, the Heavenly joy, beauty and power will FAR OUTWEIGH IT ALL!! The eternal bliss will last forever and ever!

**2Cor. 4:17** For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, **worketh** for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory;

 **18** While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal (temporary); but the things which are not seen are eternal. (They will last forever). With much study and prayer, I bring you this. I have asked God to help me help you!! God truly speaks to us in nature.

LET’S LOOK AT THE LITTLE OYSTER



Odd, wouldn’t you say? Not very pretty to look at and seems insignificant. Sure doesn’t look important at all does it? What good can come out of this thing? This oyster lives its life in secret, deep in the water on the ocean floor away from the eyes of man. While the world above it is busy going, making merry - eating, drinking; buying and selling, planting and building their dreams – this little clam slowly makes its way across the sand. What good is it, what could it ever offer?





Deep inside the muscle of this little Oyster a Pearl is formed. A pearl does not suddenly form overnight but it’s a slow process. So, the question is – How is the beautiful shiny pearl formed? It is formed through pain. It reaches its perfection of beauty and quality through a painful process. Jesus wants His children to know that we will go through a painful process to become His pearl of great price. A pearl is formed through suffering, for there is no other way to Heaven. We try to avoid it. We all want a life of ease without stress, pain, persecution or trouble; we all would like to evade and escape our hardships, but to become a pearl we will go through tribulation and trials.

 O little white shiny Pearl, would you tell us – where did you come from? How did you become so valuable and beautiful? For this answer, bear with my imagination as the Holy Ghost took me beneath the waves to the depths of life’s restless sea. There’s nothing any good in the stormy deep is there? O yes!! There on the bottom of the sea floor in the grainy sand we meet an Oyster, which is called a Clam, slowly making its way across the gritty sand. This precious gem coveted by Kings and Queens is produced inside the Oyster through suffering. Something has entered its life that has caused it much pain. No pain – no Pearl. The Oysters’ shell is hinged on one side which allows it to open to take in food. As the Oyster feeds along the sea floor, somehow and unplanned, it sucks in a sharp grain of sand and it embeds itself in its flesh within the shell. It didn’t want it but in it came anyway. That irritating rough grain of sand wasn’t invited, but in it came and it lodged and stayed. That’s bad isn’t it? How long will it stay? It takes three to five years for a Pearl to form inside the suffering Oyster. Doesn’t nature itself teach us the way to God’s beautiful hidden treasures?

 Through the many days, months and years that follow, the suffering Oyster opens its shell time after time and it tries and tries to expel the unwanted irritating grain of sand because of the pain. But with all of its efforts to spit it out and be free, it can’t get rid of it!!

This is surely not fair is it? It was it’s way of saying I don’t want this thing in my life. Isn’t that how we too feel children? Lord, would you move and take this thing out of my life so I won’t have to hurt and shed tears anymore! O God, I don’t want anymore troubles and trials, give me a life of comfort and ease.

GOD’S LITTLE BEAUTIFUL MIRACLE

 O the Grace of our God and the miracle of it all!! Once the Oyster realizes that it cannot be free from that unwanted irritating grain of sand, something begins to happen inside. The creator knew this would happen all along. The little Oyster’s built in nature that was put in it by its Divine Creator begins to react to compensate for the inward irritation and pain!! Inside of this little Oyster and Clam there’s a gland that begins to secrete a soft white substance that flows gently around the grain of sand and coats it to relieve the irritation. Every day and every night, very slowly month after month, layer after layer of soft white fluid coats the grain of sand, easing the pain. It’s the only way that the Oyster can bear the hurt. Finally after several years, a Beautiful White Pearl appears inside. This little life may have hurt for a while, but has now formed a Pearl of great Price out of its suffering that is very valuable and worth something! Truly, truly our Lord has a way of showing us that **“Something Good can come out of Suffering!”** Glory to His Holy Name!! We must be patient and Trust the Lord – Good things take a while to form!

TREASURE FOR THE KING

**Mat. 13:45** -Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, **seeking** Goodly Pearls:

 **46** Who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it.

 Truly to us, when we come to God and find Jesus, we have found the Pearl of Great price!

 Fishermen in their much effort to find pearls, dive to great depths. When they haul in their catch, they bring the Oysters to the shore and there they pry open their shells and get the valuable Gem. A grand white Pearl now goes to the market and is purchased for the Queen and added to her jewels. In Bible days, Pearls were destined for the throne and became peculiar treasure for Kings. A Pearl cannot come out and be brought forth until the Oyster is dead! It gives up its life to make others rich!! Surely, this points us to the Suffering of our Saviour.

Do you really realize there was a Pearl forming at Calvary? There, cruel men abused God’s Son. They mocked His Holy name. They broke His heart with their blasphemy. They crowned His tender head with sharp thorns till the blood ran down His loving face. The man of sorrows was acquainted with grief. He was nailed to a rugged cross. It was there the Saviour bore the wounds and hurt. He never asked for the pain but it came anyway, it entered His Holy innocent life. The angry waves of the sea of humanity rolled over the Son of God with their torturous sins and hurt Him. Not one thing did He ever do to deserve it. He suffered it all because He loved you and me. There He died from the agony of it all. They took His body down and buried it in a dark lonely tomb. But on the third day the Angel of the Lord pried open the sepulcher and rolled the Stone away and out Came our Glorious Pearl of Great Price!! Love conquered, Love overcame the pain, hurt and scars and brought to us a most beautiful Salvation – A priceless Pearl!!

CHRISTS’ GLORIOUS CHURCH

 Beyond the suffering and pain, there is a loveliness in a Pearl which is found nowhere else. If kept clean, pearls will not rust. When a pearl has been harvested from the Oyster of the sea, it must be kept away from acids and chemicals of this corrupt world because they will tarnish and eat it away! This pearl is Christs’ Glorious Church of believers – the Saints of God.

**Eph 5:23** Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.

**25** Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;

 **26** That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,

 **27** That He might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

 Dear Child of God, you are part of the Church that Jesus purchased. You might feel like you’re not worth much, but remember, Jesus is working on you. You are worth something to Him. You might be suffering right now and experiencing the pain of trial, but remember – God is forming a Pearl of great price in you that will one day soon be His prized possession, worth more than all this world.

 You might feel like the Oyster at the bottom of life’s sea, the mighty billows have rolled over you. But remember, Jesus sees you, He knows where you are and He cares, for He has been there too. I’m talking to people in this Newsletter, some of you are hurting – something has entered your life and it is causing you much worry, stress and pain. You have questioned and wondered why am I going through this? You have prayed and desired to get rid of all the trouble and be free from the pain.

 Like the little gland that God put in the Oyster, the Lord has given us something very special. He put it deep within our hearts - it’s the Comforter, the Sweet Holy Ghost to comfort and make us strong! He’s our keeper, sustainer and guide. Like the gland in the Oyster that secretes the soft white fluid to coat the irritation, you too have a way to get relief.

As you pray, the Holy Spirit coats the irritation with the Divine Love of God and makes the pain much easier to bear! Day after day you pray; as the months pass you learn to accept the things you cannot change and you find that God’s presence comes through prayer and coats the problem. The Lord doesn’t always move the rough things in life but He gives sweet Grace to endure. After a while, there’s something beautiful being formed in you, something lovely. Your trust grows in God. You find Him more dear to your soul than ever before. LOVE WINS! Charity covers a multitude of sins; Love conquers All.

**1Pet 5:10** ¶ But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.

A MIRACLE MADE IN FLESH

 O the wonders of God’s amazing miracles of creation that He has made. He has shown them to us in little forms of Life! Just to think of all the gold, silver, rubies and diamonds that are dug from the earth and come from rock, but the beautiful shiny Pearl is the only one that is created in living flesh!! It was birthed and came forth through pain. The innocent Oyster received an irritation that became a wound, and around that wound it formed a Pearl from the very thing that hurt it. Our Heavenly Father is saying – there is no other way it can come about. O child of God, it will surely be worth all the trials and tears, every pain and sorrow you bear to be able to enter the eternal joys of God’s good Heaven! It’ll be glorious when we step inside and all the suffering will be left outside the gates.

A REFLECTOR OF LIGHT

 Pearls are a reflector of light. They will both absorb and reflect the light that shine upon it. O the dazzling beauty that must be in Heaven when the Glory of the Son of God shines and reflects from the walls of Jasper and the gates of pearl!!

WHAT WILL IT BE LIKE WHEN

WE ALL ENTER HEAVEN?

Dear reader, have you ever wondered why that God created 12 gates made of Pearl that enters into that celestial city of the New Jerusalem? The twelve gates were 12 pearls; every several gate was of One Pearl. **Revelation 21:12** says there is an Angel at each Gate of Pearl. Twelve Gates, twelve Angels. I just wonder why an Angel will be standing there at each entrance? I can see those of you who arrive at the gate. Some of you have fought many battles. You’ve been battle scarred, tired, worn and weary. Some of you have experienced great hardships and trials down through the years. Others of you have carried heavy loads and burdens, endured much sickness and shed many tears. Only you can know inside the hurt, pain and heartbreak you have endured.

We don’t really know, but could it be that as we near the gate, the Angel of the Lord, God’s gatekeeper will say to us “Welcome Home” Child of God, all your labours and trials are over. You’ll never hurt or cry again!! There’ll be no more tears, pain or suffering. Sorrow and death cannot enter here. Inside the gates As you near the entrance, you will look upon those massive white shiny gates made of Pearl and be reminded of the price that Jesus paid at Calvary. Your Lord and Saviour went before you and suffered it all that you might enter.

**Heb 2:9** But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.

 Dear child of God, we are truly looking forward to the day that we can lay our Cross of suffering down and step through Heaven’s gate and receive our shiny Crown!

**Jas 1:12** - Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the Crown of Life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.

**Rev. 2:10** - Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a Crown of Life.

**1Th 2:19** - For what is our hope, or joy, or Crown of Rejoicing? Are not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming?

I wonder what our Crown will look like? Will it be made up of precious gems and jewels? Will it contain the Pearl of great price that will shine through all eternity?

Every entrance into the Heavenly life is through a Pearl! What is a Pearl? It’s a wound that was made inside a shell. A rough grain of sand entered a little life that caused much pain but the God given resources deep inside began to flow to the wound and coat it and comforted it till a Pearl was formed. A beauty appears that is not otherwise brought out. A Pearl is a Healed wound. No wounds, no trials or suffering, there’d be no Pearl.

PRESENTED TO THE FATHER

 Some day very soon when our life here is over and Jesus takes us home, He will present us, His bride, before His Father and will say: “Look my Father, these are all mine! I have redeemed them. They are all my precious jewels forever.” Oh the beauty and the Glory in that celestial city where the Lamb is the Light, O the joy there will be when the saints will meet the Pearl of Great price and rejoice forevermore!!! So shall we ever be with our Lord and Saviour.

**Rev. 21:3** And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.

 4 - And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

 **5** - And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.

 **6** - And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely.

 **7** - He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.

*May God Bless all my readers!*

