

Messenger of Truth

"Holding forth the Word of Life" (Phil. 2:16)

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### **Adversity**

"Sometimes life has a way of putting us on our backs in order to force us to look up." – Charles L. Allen

"Prosperity is a great teacher; adversity is a greater. Possession pampers the mind; privation trains and strengthens it." – William Hazlitt

"If a bird is flying for pleasure it flies with the wind, but if it meets danger it turns and faces the wind, in order that it may rise higher." – Corrie ten Boom

"How should thy patience be crowned in Heaven if none adversity should befall to thee on earth? If thou wilt suffer none adversity how mayest thou be the friend of Christ?" – Thomas Kempis

"Unless the clay be well pounded, no pitcher can be made." – Latin Proverb

The word *adversity* was used numerous times in the Old Testament. It was a word that signified a rival (cf. 2 Sam. 4:9), and in other instances, affliction or evil (cf. Job 42:11).

Life is certainly not without its difficulties, particularly if you are a Christian. "And you will be hated by all for My name's sake..." (Matt. 10:22). "So they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His name" (Acts 5:41). "Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this matter" (1 Pet. 4:16).

From of old, we are reminded that good will always face adversity from evil. When the effort by the Jews was made to rebuild the wall, we find Sanballat and Tobiah the Ammonite doing the work of Satan trying to stop and discourage the construction (Neh. 4).

Our Lord told Peter, "...Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat" (Luke 22:31). "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour" (1 Pet. 5:8).

If you stand for the truth, you *will* face adversity. But also consider, if you are facing no adversity, something is wrong with your life. Jesus said, "Woe to you when all men speak well of you..." (Luke 6:26).

Remember that Jesus lived a sinless life. And our Lord told the disciples, "If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you" (John 15:18). And yes, our Lord was hated and crucified.

Have the courage to stand up for Jesus, and remember John's words, "Do not marvel, my brethren, if the world hates you" (1 John 3:13).