

Devotional Thought
Week of May 19, 2008

THEME: "Facing Life's Pains"

"For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, not any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."
Romans 8:38-39 (NIV)

Recently I read an article that was powerful and reminded me of the support system one finds in Christ. The lady who wrote the article tells of losing her husband and children in a tragic plane crash. She miraculously escaped death but was severely burned. She relates how she told the Lord that if He wanted her to live, she would give her life to Him, but He would have to handle the grief, the pain, and the suffocating loneliness. As the years passed, she discovered that with His help she could keep going, even with feelings of despair.

Life comes at you so fast with so many difficulties and disappointments that it sometime seems more difficult to face life than to face death. At one point or another we will all have a low point – a period of disappointment - in this life. It is often said that God did not promise sunshine without rain, heart ache without pain, but he did promise strength for the day and to be with us all the way. The song writer, Isaac Watts reminds us of this with the memorable words in the song Amazing Grace. He wrote: *"Through many danger, toils and snares, I (we) have already come. Tis grace hath brought me (us) safe thus far, and grace will lead me (us) home.* We must live with a faith that will not allow the uncertainties, sufferings and heartache of life to defeat us thereby separating us from the love of God that is in Christ our Lord.

No doubt, the disciples faced many moments of loneliness and despair. The scriptural reference today points to such an occasion when they were cast out of Iconium by both Jews and Gentiles. They fled to surrounding areas, claiming the faith which enabled them to face the opposition and turn it into victory for their Master. Their mission continued in spite of adversity. The support system of faith available to the disciples in Iconium is available to us today.

PRAYER: Lord Jesus, keep our thoughts pivoted to the part we can accomplish in your plans for us. Help us to realize our potential and your great powers and not be overcome by life's disappointments and failures. Be our compass and map out our course. We ask this In Jesus names. AMEN.

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