

Don't lose the daily practices.

- Disciplines of the Christian life.
 - Worship
 - Prayer
 - Scripture
- Daily Lifestyle Practices
 - Die to Self
 - Take up the cross

How I Go Through It

- How I go through things is often more important than anything else I do.
 - I am setting an example for someone.
 - I never know for sure who is watching me.
 - Those to whom I have ministered.
 - Family members believers and yet to be believers.
 - Friends and those in my sphere of living.
 - All want to see if I will walk the walk, having heard me talk the talk.

Stories of the Bible

- Joseph with the dreams and interpretation of Dreams.
 - Where he began and where he ended up and the journey between the two.
- David being chased by Saul.
 - Anointed, but not seated, as king.
 - How he acted but would not touch Saul.
- Job who really went "through it."
 - In the face of questionable counsel.
 - Told by his wife that he should curse God and die.
- All that the apostles gave up, and all they went through.
 - Especially Paul, but also how they were all persecuted.
- These are all examples for us.

1 Corinthians 10:11 ESV

Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come.

Keep the Main Thing, the Main Thing

- I am to remember the main thing, that is, I must keep my focus on Jesus.
 - Not on the noise of the world around me.
 - Not on the worldly things that I may want to do.
 - Not even on what God has given me to do.
 - My focus needs to be on Jesus.
 - And then on following what Holy Spirit leads me to do.

Hebrews 13:1-6 ESV

Let brotherly love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares. Remember those who are in prison, as though in prison with them, and those who are mistreated, since you also are in the body. Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous. Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for He has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." So we can confidently say, "The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?"

Jesus With Me

- I am not abandoned, pressed but not crushed.
 - Referring to the light of the glory of God, to Christ in me.
- This body is a tool in the hand of God.

2 Corinthians 4:7-11 ESV

But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies. For we who live are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh.

God Remains With Me

- I must continue living in the way Jesus showed us.
 - An intimate relationship with the Father.
 - Following the leading of Holy Spirit.
 - Loving one another.
- I am to show that to others making disciples.
 - Even when I am "going through it."

Matthew 28:18-20 ESV

And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Holy Spirit Within Me

- The Spirit and power are within me.
 - Jesus gave us the authority.
 - He also sent us the Helper, Holy Spirit.
 - Jesus tells His disciples about the Helper.
 - John 14:26; 15:26; 16:7.

Acts 1:4-5 ESV

And while staying with them He ordered them not to depart Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, He said, "you heard from Me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

"Fear Not"

- I am not to be cowering in the corner.
 - "Fear not" was a phrase used often by Jesus to His disciples and in His sermons and teachings.

Victory in Jesus

- Jesus said, "I have overcome the world."
 - I will have trials and tribulation in the world.
 - Just as those before me have suffered, likewise no those among me.
 - I am to overcome these things, in Jesus.

John 16:33 ESV

"I have said these things to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."

Belief Down Deep

- Do I believe these things?
 - Oo I belief in the depths of my innermost being?
 - Then what ought I look at, and for?
 - I am to maintain my focus on Jesus, and I am to watch for Him.

Lessons

- What did I see and learn "going through it"?
 - I'm not all that He can find someone else.
 - I need to remain humble.
 - I need to be obedient in love.

Whose Glory?

- I ought to be bringing greater glory to God.
 - Whatever I go through, I ought to do in such a way as to glorify God.
 - I ought to go through it as though I were the next example to be written about for those who follow.
 - Will that be for a good example, or for the wrong reasons?
 - Should I be spared every struggle?
 - I should remember the man born blind.
 - He was used to bring glory to God.

John 9:3 ESV

Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him."

Scriptural Truth

I need the truth of God to become my default mode.

I Am Not My Own

- Often in my prayers I acknowledge these three points:
- 1. God, You created me, I am Yours.
- 2. God, You redeemed me, I am Yours.
- 3. God, I surrendered myself to You, I am Yours.

- I am not my own, and God is free to do with me as He sees fit.
- I need to trust God, and to rely upon Him, in all things.

Use Me God

- Can I say, "Use me however you desire, Lord," and then refuse?
 - Use me as long as I don't suffer?
 - Use me as long as it is convenient or me?

Focus on Jesus

- My focus needs to be on Christ Jesus for my sake.
 - And for the sake of those He allows me to minister to.
 - And to share that focus with others.
 - For the maturing of the saints to dwell in Him.
 - That we all may learn to allow Christ to live through us.

Colossians 1:24-29 ESV

Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of His body, that is, the [Ekklesia] church, of which I became a minister according to the stewardship from God that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, the mystery hidden for ages and generations but now revealed to His saints.

Colossians 1:24-29 ESV

To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ. For this I toil, struggling with all His energy that He powerfully works within me.

Think About It

- Who is this suffering for?
 - The glory of God.
 - To encourage the Saints.
 - To promote growth in the body.
 - To bring the Saints to maturity.