

August 29, 2010
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Monday

Gen. 50:20 "As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result, ... "

There is nothing that brings such comfort and introspection as the knowledge of God's providence in our lives. Comfort: because we understand that God is working in our lives for good in every situation. He is orchestrating the circumstances (not necessarily causing them, that is different) for our benefit. Nothing flows to us but by His loving hand. Introspection: because I should seek in every way to grow and mature through the providence of my life. "How is God working in me?" should be my question. "How does God desire to work through me?" should be my inquiry.

Tuesday

Heb. 6:12 So that you ... (will be) imitators of those who *through faith and patience* inherit the promises."

Patience -- it may be a virtue, but its demands can often seem to be a curse. "Wait upon the Lord" is a heavy stipulation that requires a tremendous exertion of faith. Joseph was patient as he rode through the many trials of life, not seeing the plan but knowing the Planner. In the end, the struggles made sense, but not in the beginning or in the midst of them. There were times when it appeared that the end of His struggles was near, just around the corner. But then would come a setback of huge proportions. Yet, he did not give into sin; He remained faithful and patient.

Wednesday

2Cor. 1:4 (God) comforts us in all our affliction *so that we will be able* to comfort those who are in any affliction with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

Have you recently asked yourself, "What does God want to do through me because of my experiences of His grace in my struggles?" Have you yet seen the purposes of God in the midst of your trials? You are unique but your struggles bear common resemblance to others. What has God taught you? What is your testimony of His faithfulness? What ministry has He fitted you for by means of your past struggles? God uses our past and our problems to make us ready for service? How has He equipped you? What are you doing to serve Him?

Thursday

Is. 64:8 We are the clay, and You our potter;
And all of us are the work of Your hand.

The molding of the vessel is the potter's responsibility. He will put pressure on one side of the clay and drive deep his hand into its center. He will apply water to the mud to make its shaping possible. Then when it is completed, he will fire it in the hottest oven. So God has laid His hand upon you: pressure, flood, and fire are His messengers of choice. In the end the vessel is made useful and the hollowed out center is perfect for containing the Spirit of God. Do not despise the shaping. Do not despise the fire. Know that these events of your life are requisite to your glory.

Friday

2Pet. 1:5 Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in your moral excellence, knowledge, and in your knowledge, self-control...

You cannot control circumstances. You cannot control others. You will struggle to control yourself, but by the work of God's Spirit, self-control is the one thing that you can implement with success. You cannot change how you acted yesterday, but by God's grace, you can improve your actions. You can control what you do next and say next. You can begin to control how you think. The success of your life will not ultimately depend upon others or circumstances. It will depend upon your exercise of self-control empowered by God's Spirit.