

## "The Simple

Challenge."

Psalm 48.  
2 Corinthians

7: 2-14.

Jesus gave very simple instruction from Moses' Law regarding the way we should honour and serve God to have a Blessed life.

and Might  
Yourself-  
Hang All The  
22:40).

"Love God with All Your Heart, Soul,  
as well as Love Your Neighbour as  
On These Two Commandments,  
Law and the Prophets."(Matthew

Yet following these two simple Mosaic laws does involve difficulties. Our neighbours whom as Christ taught in the "Good Samaritan" parable are all people are not always easy to love. People can, in fact, be cruel. And there are times when it seems our Heavenly Father does not always love us back the way we love Him when life afflictions multiply despite our prayerful cries for help.. What seems simple obedience to Loving and Serving God as well as Humanity can therefore be a challenge.

Nonetheless, there is assuring news in today's New Testament lesson. It both reaffirms God's promise that He will never Leave nor Forsake Us(Deuteronomy 31:8). God will indeed give us enough Grace-Love and Mercy-to

persevere in afflictions. What is more is that God will allow the world to witness His Miracles through the Callings He gives and that we will fulfill if faithful even whilst afflicted with perhaps a never ending struggle. We need only to examine Paul's wisdom words.

Paul explained that he had battled a "Flesh Thorn" all of his life. He did not allude to his struggle's identity. But Paul assured the Corinth church that God had informed him that he needed not worry about his struggle's long lasting presence. The Lord assured that His Grace was enough to strengthen Paul to successfully fulfill His Life Purpose- Spreading the Gospel. Paul was thus comforted. Therefore, he continued preaching despite his mystery struggle as well as other afflictions to come such as imprisonment even execution.

Ignacy Paderewski, the great Polish pianist, once had a small boy sneak upon his concert stage before the performance beginning. The child began plucking piano notes as if to play an improvised musical piece. Yet he struggled to reach some keys. Paderewski, unoffended, entered the stage, sat down beside the boy, and began playing alongside him. The child stopped playing. Yet Paderewski shouted with joy, "Don't Stop, Keep Going!" Together, they created a lovely, piano improvisation. The great music master believed in the boy's talents despite the child's struggle to reach some keys which Paderewski proved could be overcome by playing with Heart! God gave Paul the same encouragement. He told Paul to "keep going." Paul's preaching gift would overpower his affliction to spread the Good News throughout the world. Paul listened. And Christianity became the greatest world success story. God and servants made a beautiful preaching melody together.

We must also remember that Jesus Christ, Our Lord and Saviour, suffered never ending afflictions even before the Cross-the worst affliction of all yet

one Christ accepted in Love to pay for our Sins. Evil King Herod, wanted Baby Jesus killed as not to threaten his authority. His wrath led to Jesus

spending childhood in Egypt whilst other infants were murdered with hope one would have been Jesus. Christ was then tempted by Satan whom he warded off only to be deemed a "blasphemer" and ousted from Nazareth, his hometown, after he proclaimed his Messiah hood in the synagogue. The Pharisees then accused Jesus of witchcraft for healing and His own disciples betrayed and denied Him. Yet Jesus Himself knew He would rise above all struggles to fulfill His duty-to make Eternal Life possible for us on the Cross. Jesus did. Christ made this clear when he said: "Take Heart! I Have Overcome The World."(John 16;33).

Dr. Harold Moody was a Jamaican born British physician in early 20th century London. An honours King's College, University of London graduate, Dr. Moody was denied hospital appointments because of his skin colour. Yet Dr. Moody also kept going. He opened the first South London clinic for the poor often treating people for free or for whatever fee they could afford. His clinic also provided free food and boarding for London visitors in need of shelter and healthcare. When he asked why he never gave up despite racial discrimination Dr. Moody responded: "God gives us these struggles to show we can overcome everything as well as doing anything with Love if we choose to be the more Loving." Dr. Moody did take heart as Jesus commanded. He knew he could overcome the world's afflictions because Christ had already overcome the worst of the worst.

Let us therefore accept the challenge of following two simple commandments along with all other afflictions that will arise. God and Saviour have already assured us that we can do all things in Them! This means overcoming the impossible to experience God's Glory and to allow others to experience the same through seeing Our Victory in Christ over All Iniquity!!!

Amen.