

The October CFAMC Devotional Page

Rough Diamond, courtesy of the USGS and Wikimedia Commons (Public Domain)



I write this Page today after having weathered the most difficult single week stretch of my entire life, which – not unexpectedly – followed one of the most triumphant weeks of my life. It is almost a given that when God has given you a glimpse of what He has planned for you, one’s spiritual enemies will do everything they can with everyone who is susceptible to their attacks to distract you. And of course, one’s own flesh is always there to resist one’s “pressing on the upward way,” as the hymn “Higher Ground” expresses it.

And then there are those unhappy life circumstances that seem to pile up all at the same time – deaths, funerals, betrayals, self-centered people who just don’t know where to stop in their demands even though you’ve said and done everything you can to help them, churches that are dying like absolute fools while you have to be there in the middle of it ... everything cued up last week (with two horrible Sunday “bookends”) and attacked. Halloween ain’t got NOTHING on last week for me. I am still very tired, and so the Page is shorter than usual.

But this morning I woke up with music playing in my head of such beauty that it caused me to cry, and I started thinking back over how God has kept me and protected me over my entire life. By 18, I had been through things that would have broken and embittered the life of many a young woman, and the struggle hardly stopped there. But to this day I have escaped anything but being matured beyond my 30 years. And that is by the grace of God – but the secret is choosing to walk in that grace, instead of turning away.

For many years, one of my most cherished verses was Job 13:15A:

Job 13:15A -- Though He slay me, yet will I trust in Him.

That was the best I could do for some time. I am at last able to look back and articulate a finer truth. God really does mean John 3:16 ... we all know it, maybe a little too well to think about it as deeply as we should when hard times hit...

John 3:16 -- For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Read it again. It is often said that “that which does not kill you makes you stronger.” We have everlasting life, in Christ. Nothing, therefore, can “kill us.” Hence, all things that come are only God’s way of making us stronger, making us more ready to serve Him, more ready to carry out His perfect will and to glorify Him for all eternity. Hence, of course, this well-known verse...

Romans 8:28 -- And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose.

One of my father’s friends says, “It’s a good thing when you can move off Believe Street onto Know Street,” and he is right. Despite the week that has passed over me, I *know*, beyond the shadow of a doubt, that God does mean what He says – His design for all our lives will not be stopped, or even hindered unless we choose, in the midst of our pain, to run from Him. But even delay is not destruction... God has all of eternity to work out John 3:16 and Romans 8:28. He will not be stopped – and we can choose to walk every day in His determination, His victory. I commend this course to you, out of the midst of my grief, and my overwhelming joy in Him!

(And I commend this to you knowing that, God willing, I shall have the joy of looking several of you in the face and fellowship with you personally in just a few days!)