

Pressing Forward

by Charles E. Cowman

Trials and hard places are necessary to press us forward, refine us, and help us value life and understand the trials of others.

Scripture: Romans 5:3, 2 Corinthians 1:8, 2 Corinthians 4:8, James 1:2, 1 Peter 4:12

Topics: "Trials And Tribulation", "Faith And Suffering"

Description

Charles E. Cowman preaches about the transformative power of pressure and trials in our lives, emphasizing how these difficult experiences lead us to rely not on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead. He highlights that through intense pressure in various aspects of our being, we are pressed into knowing and loving God more deeply, into faith for impossible things, and into living a life poured out for Christ. Cowman explains that the pressure of hard places helps us value life, understand the trials of others, and become more compassionate individuals who truly grasp the meaning of suffering.

Transcript

"I was crushed...so much so that I despaired even of life, but that was to make me rely not on myself, but on the God who raises the dead" (2 Cor. 1:8, 9).

"Pressed out of measure and pressed to all length;

Pressed so intensely it seems, beyond strength;

Pressed in the body and pressed in the soul,

Pressed in the mind till the dark surges roll.

Pressure by foes, and a pressure from friends.

Pressure on pressure, till life nearly ends.

"Pressed into knowing no helper but God;

Pressed into loving the staff and the rod.

Pressed into liberty where nothing clings;

Pressed into faith for impossible things.

Pressed into living a life in the Lord,

Pressed into living a Christ-life outpoured."

The pressure of hard places makes us value life. Every time our life is given back to us from such a trial, it is like a new beginning, and we learn better how much it is worth, and make more of it for God and man. The pressure helps us to understand the trials of others, and fits us to help and sympathize with them.

There is a shallow, superficial nature, that gets hold of a theory or a promise lightly, and talks very glibly about the distrust of those who shrink from every trial; but the man or woman who has suffered much never does this, but is very tender and gentle, and knows what suffering really means. This is what Paul meant when he said, "Death worketh in you."

Trials and hard places are needed to press us forward, even as the furnace fires in the hold of that mighty ship give force that moves the piston, drives the engine, and propels that great vessel across the sea in the face of the winds and waves. --A. B. Simpson

"Out of the presses of pain,

Cometh the soul's best wine;

And the eyes that have shed no rain,

Can shed but little shine."

Source: <https://sermonindex.net/speakers/charles-e-cowman/pressing-forward/>

Grow in Your Walk with Christ

Listen and read messages that will stir your heart for Christ and point you to deeper repentance and devotion.

- 50,000+ Sermons from speakers past and present
- 3,900+ Classic Christian Books freely readable online
- 1,200+ Bible Translations and Commentaries
- Over 450k forum posts — Join our vibrant online Christian forum

www.sermonindex.net