

The Sacrament of Pain

by Peter Taylor Forsyth

Peter Taylor Forsyth teaches that pain can be a sacrament, a means of prayer and thanksgiving, if we consecrate it for God.

Scripture: Psalm 30:11, Isaiah 61:3, Romans 8:28, 2 Corinthians 12:8, 1 Thessalonians 5:18

Topics: "Suffering And Prayer", "Christian Suffering"

Description

Peter Taylor Forsyth preaches about the transformative power of prayer in the midst of pain, emphasizing the importance of praying for pain's conversion rather than just its removal. He highlights the concept of making pain a sacrament, capturing and exploiting it for God's glory, and converting it into a form of prayer. Forsyth encourages turning pain into praise, thanking God in all circumstances, and recognizing how our own struggles can be a blessing to others, ultimately leading to a true Eucharist of giving thanks.

Transcript

"For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me"

(2 Cor. 12:8).

We pray for the removal of pain, pray passionately, and then with exhaustion, sick from hope deferred and prayer's failure. But there is a higher prayer than that. It is a greater thing to pray for pain's conversion than for its removal. It is more of grace to pray that God would make a sacrament of it. The sacrament of pain! That we partake not simply, nor perhaps chiefly, when we say, or try to say, with resignation, 'Thy will be done.' It is not always easy for the sufferer, if he remain clear-eyed, to see that it is God's will. It may have been caused by an evil mind, or a light fool, or some stupid greed. But, now it is there, a certain treatment of it is God's will; and that is to capture and exploit it for Him. It is to make it serve the soul and glorify God. It is to consecrate its elements and make it sacramental. It is to convert it into prayer.

God has blessed pain even in causing us to pray for relief from it, or profit. Whatever drives us to Him, and even nearer Him, has a blessing in it. And, if we are to go higher still, it is to turn pain to praise, to thank Him in the fires, to review life and use some of the energy we spend in worrying upon recalling and tracing His goodness, patience, and mercy. If much open up to us in such a review we may be sure there is much more we do not know, and perhaps never may. God is the greatest of all who do good by stealth and do not crave for every benefit to be acknowledged. Or we may see how our pain becomes a blessing to others. And we turn the spirit of heaviness to the garment of praise. We may stop grousing and get our

soul into its Sunday clothes. The sacrament of pain becomes then a true Eucharist and giving of thanks.

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