

Through Pressures We Grow

by William MacDonald

Pressure is a necessary part of our growth and development as Christians, helping us develop patience and producing real goodness in our character.

Scripture: Psalm 4:1, Hebrews 12:11, James 1:2

Topics: "Growth through Trials", "The Value of Suffering"

Description

William MacDonald emphasizes that through pressures and tribulations, we experience growth and development in our character. He highlights that challenges are essential for progress, as even secular thinkers recognize the value of problems in fostering resilience. MacDonald shares testimonies from the Christian community, illustrating how suffering can lead to eternal benefits and deeper understanding. He quotes Spurgeon, who reflects on the invaluable lessons learned from affliction, suggesting that hardships are crucial for spiritual growth. Ultimately, MacDonald reassures that while chastening is unpleasant, it yields the fruit of goodness in those who endure it.

Transcript

"In pressure thou hast enlarged me." (Psa. 4:1 Darby)

It is true that "calm seas never made a sailor." It is through tribulation that we develop patience. It is through pressure that we are enlarged.

Even men of the world have realized that difficulties have educative and broadening values. Charles Kettering once said, "Problems are the price of progress. Don't bring me anything but problems. Good news weakens me."

But especially from the Christian world come testimonies to the profit derived from trials.

We read, for instance, "To suffer passes, but to have suffered endures for eternity."

The poet adds this confirmation:

And many a rapturous minstrel among those sons of light

Will say of his sweetest music, "I learnt it in the night;"

And many a rolling anthem that fills the Father's home

Sobbed out its first rehearsal in the shade of a darkened room.

Spurgeon wrote, in his inimitable way:

“I am afraid that all the grace I have got out of my comfortable and easy times and happy hours might almost lie on a penny. But the good I have received from my sorrows and pains and griefs is altogether incalculable. What do I not owe to the hammer and the file? Affliction is the best bit of furniture in my house.”

And yet why should we be surprised? Does not the unnamed writer to the Hebrews tell us, “Now obviously no ‘chastening’ seems pleasant at the time: it is in fact most unpleasant. Yet when it is all over we can see that it has quietly produced the fruit of real goodness in the character of those who have accepted it” (Heb. 12:11, Phillips).

Source: <https://sermonindex.net/speakers/william-macdonald/through-pressures-we-grow/>

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