

"But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you." 1 Peter 5:10

We say that a baby "settles down," when they stop crying and fall asleep. They've finally realized that their efforts are futile, and they've worn themselves out with their struggles.

Believers often cry out to God because they find themselves in a hardship of their own making, and God will sometimes be aloof so that we may learn that either we're ok, or not to



make the same mistake again. Sadly, many repeat the same errors over and over again and never seem to learn the intended lesson. How many times have you watched a child doing something, knowing that the end result is trouble for them, and because they need a lesson, you let them continue? When in charge of Children's Church, I often withheld rewards. Everyone got a little, but the well behaved got extra. Sometimes I just gave treats for no discernible reason. Boaz instructed his reapers to leave extra stalks standing if they saw Ruth gleaning behind them. God gives blessings on purpose to His children. Suffering may not always be chastisement. It may be enlightenment, or it may be Satan at work. If we have sinned, we will know. Always look for and wait patiently for any lesson that may be learned. It may be that a weaker believer may come to you for advice. They couldn't have endured the lesson, but God allowed it in your life simply to give you understanding so that you may help another. When we begin to view trials as training, and we begin to say with Job, *"The Lord giveth, and the Lord taketh away. Blessed be the name of the Lord."* We will then know what it is to be stablished and settled. God will strengthen us to be able to endure trials so that others will marvel at our endurance. Be ever mindful to give God the glory for your strength, remembering the admonition, *"Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall."* Pride will bring the powerful to their knees, so beware!

The trials come, and trials go,
So that we may thrive and grow,
From strength to strength we will endure,
Our faith established, settled, sure. ~CGP

Called to eternal glory! Time is a droplet of mist in the universe of eternity. Forever is a long, long, time! We endure, but for a moment that we obtain an eternal inheritance.

"And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand." John 10:28-29