

Adversity Quotes

Along the Road

I WALKED A MILE WITH PLEASURE
SHE CHATTED ALONG THE WAY,
BUT LEFT ME NONE THE WISER
FOR ALL SHE HAD TO SAY.
I WALKED A MILE WITH SORROW,
AND NE’ER A WORD SAID SHE:
BUT, OH, THE THINGS I LEARNED FROM HER
WHEN SORROW WALKED WITH ME!

- Robert Browning Hamilton

We understood well before we came to this vale of tears that there would be sorrows, disappointments, hard work, blood, sweat, and tears; but in spite of all, we looked down and saw this earth being made ready for us, and we said in effect, ‘Yes, Father, in spite of all those things I can see great blessings that could come to me as one of thy sons or daughters; in taking a body I can see that I will eventually become immortal like thee, that I might overcome the effects of sin and be perfected, and so I am anxious to go to the earth at the first opportunity.’ And so we came.

President Spencer W. Kimball, Teachings, 31

God wants us to be stronger than we are – more fixed in our purpose, more certain of our commitments, eventually needing less coddling from him, showing more willingness to shoulder some of the burden of his heavy load. In short, he wants us to be more like he is, and if you haven’t noticed, some of us are not like that yet.

Jeffrey R. Holland, The Bitter Cup and the Bloody Baptism, BYU Devotional, January 13, 1987

This quote is from a book by Viktor Frankl where he recounts his experience in the concentration camps during World War II.

“Even though conditions such as lack of sleep, insufficient food and various mental stresses may suggest that the inmates were bound to react in certain ways, in the final analysis it becomes clear that the sort of person the prisoner became was the result of an inner decision, and not the result of camp influences alone. Fundamentally, therefore, any man can, even under such circumstances, decide what shall become of him – mentally and spiritually. He may retain his human dignity even in a concentration camp. Dostoesvski said once, ‘There is only one thing that I dread: Not to be worthy of my sufferings.’”

Viktor Frankl, Man’s Search for Meaning, 66.

“...As we confront our own lesser trials and tribulations, we ... can plead with the Father, just as Jesus did, that we “might not ... shrink”—meaning to retreat or to recoil (D&C 19:18). Not shrinking is much more important than surviving! Moreover, partaking of a bitter cup without becoming bitter is likewise part of the emulation of Jesus.”

Neal A. Maxwell, “‘Apply the Atoning Blood of Christ,’” *Ensign*, Nov 1997, 22