

aug 8

it's the struggle in life that makes us strong

a man found a cocoon of a butterfly. one day a small opening appeared. he sat and watched the butterfly for several hours as it struggled to force its body through that little hole.

then it seemed to stop making any progress. it appeared as if it had gotten as far as it could, and it could go no further. so the man decided to help the butterfly. he took a pair of scissors and snipped off the remaining bit of the cocoon. the butterfly then emerged easily. but it had a swollen body and small, shriveled wings.

the man continued to watch the butterfly because he expected that, at any moment, the wings would enlarge and expand to be able to support the body, which would contract in time. neither happened! in fact, the butterfly spent the rest of its life crawling around with a swollen body and shriveled wings. it never was able to fly.

what the man, in his kindness and haste, did not understand was that the restricting cocoon and the struggle required for the butterfly to get through the tiny opening were God's way of forcing fluid from the body of the butterfly into its wings so that it would be ready for flight once it achieved its freedom from the cocoon.

sometimes struggles are exactly what we need in our

lives.

if God allowed us to go through our lives without any obstacles, it would cripple us.

we would not be as strong as what we could have been.
we could never fly!

i asked for strength ... and God gave me difficulties to make me strong.

i asked for wisdom ... and God gave me problems to solve.

i asked for prosperity ... and God gave me brain and brawn to work.

i asked for courage ... and God gave me danger to overcome.

i asked for love ... and God gave me troubled people to help.

i asked for favors ... and God gave me opportunities.

i received nothing i wanted ... i received everything i needed!

may God bless you.

may God bless you with unspeakable joy, not only in the world to come, but in this world also.

may your path be bright and full of light everywhere you go.

may God tell darkness that it must flee at your command.

and, i pray your feet will never stumble out of God's plan.

may the desires of your heart come true,
and may you experience peace in everything you do.

may goodness, kindness, and mercy come your way.
and may you gain wisdom and grow in the Lord everyday.

-- author unknown

yesterday i listened in on a zoom call where two "very enthusiastic" people expounded on the joys of heaven and everlasting fellowship with God. i must say, it got me a little excited also. i usually try to keep my excitement held down to a manageable level. if i didn't, i don't know how i could make myself get out of bed each day.

it may be mostly due to the health challenges that i have faced over the past few years, but this world has lost its glow to me. i realize everyone has different challenges in their life - different obstacles they must overcome. but we are challenged to be those overcomers - the manifested "sons of God." we are also told in hebrews 10:36 we "have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise."

now my anticipation has been ignited again. i know my times (and yours) rest securely in His hands. as they say, "i don't know what tomorrow holds, but i know who holds it." just like the lyrics of the song, "through it all".

i've had many tears and sorrows,
i've had questions for tomorrow,

there's been times I didn't know right from wrong.
but in every situation,
God gave me blessed consolation,
that my trials come to only make me strong.

through it all, through it all,
i've learned to trust in Jesus,
i've learned to trust in God.

so that is our challenge. we have more of time we must
"endure" before we enter eternity. as the apostle paul
spoke so well, "forgetting those things which are
behind and reaching forward to those things which are
ahead, i press toward the goal for the prize of the
upward call of God in Christ Jesus." phil 3:13-14 so
our trials - we face them with faith, not fear, knowing
that "all things work together for good to those who
love God, to those who are the called according to His
purpose." rom 8:28

yes, i've got leaving on my mind these days. i don't
know if it will be through the door of death or the
"twinkling of an eye." i only know that both lead to
life because i have chosen door number one - and that
door is Jesus. i pray you are sure where the door you
have chosen leads. and don't let any obstacles you may
see hindering your path cause you to turn aside to a
"safer" way. endure and overcome. "when He has tested
me, i shall come forth as gold." job 23:10 be that
butterfly which flies. maranatha.