

nov 19

rock flowers

"Thou hast shewed thy people hard things." psalms 60:3

i have always been glad that the psalmist said to God that some things were hard. there is no mistake about it; there are hard things in life. some beautiful pink flowers were given me this summer, and as i took them i said, "what are they?" and the answer came, "they are rock flowers; they grow and bloom only on rocks where you can see no soil." then i thought of God's flowers growing in hard places; and i feel, somehow, that He may have a peculiar tenderness for His "rock flowers" that He may not have for His lilies and roses. -

margaret bottome

the tests of life are to make, not break us. trouble may demolish a man's business but build up his character. the blow at the outward man may be the greatest blessing to the inner man. if God, then, puts or permits anything hard in our lives, be sure that the real peril, the real trouble, is what we shall lose if we flinch or rebel. - maltbie d. babcock

heroes are forged on anvils hot with pain,  
and splendid courage comes but with the test.  
some natures ripen and some natures bloom  
only on blood-wet soil, some souls prove great  
only in moments dark with death or doom.

God gets his best soldiers out of the highlands of afflictions.

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"now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it." heb 12:11 God isn't making beggars. He's making sons in His own image.

we may easily believe that God only wants the best for us, but find that belief challenged when we find our self in hard straights and difficult times.

i remember a preacher i used to have. before he got into the ministry he has a word given him from the Lord one time saying, "the business will be coming in." his business was going through a particularly hard time. as anybody would, he grabbed onto that message as a promise from God that better days are ahead. after all, he was a good christian man.

perhaps too good for his present position. you see, the business did indeed "come in," but not as in prospering, but as in collapsing. it came in around him, necessitating bankruptcy and finding a new profession; as it turned out, a profession of tending the lambs of God. he now looked upon his self a messenger boy. one who occasionally got to deliver a prized package.

only when we really lay down our dependencies on other "things" will we find the One truly needed thing. believe me when i say, "it is nothing made of material matter but of ethereal matter. it is in "the substance

of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen," (heb 11:1) and without it no one can please God.

so cherish the rock flowers growing in your garden  
above all the beautiful, fragrant flowers that bloom  
for a time but wither along with all flesh in the end.  
let Christ be the rock seeded in your garden.