

belief, not understanding

"did I not say to you that if you would believe you would see the glory of God?" – john 11:40

mary and martha could not understand what their Lord was doing. both of them said to Him, "Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died." back of it all, we seem to read their thought: "Lord, we do not understand why you have stayed away so long. we do not understand how you could let death come to the man whom you loved. we do not understand how you could let sorrow and suffering ravage our lives when your presence might have stayed it all. why did you not come? it is too late now, for already he has been dead four days!"

and to it all Jesus had but one great truth: "you may not understand; but I tell you if you believe, you will see."

abraham could not understand why God should ask the sacrifice of the boy; but he trusted. and he saw the glory of God in his restoration to his love. mooses could not understand why God should keep him forty years in the wilderness, but he trusted; and he saw when God called him to lead forth israel from bondage.

joseph could not understand the cruelty of his brethren, the false witness of a perfidious woman, and the long years of an unjust imprisonment; but he trusted, and he saw at last the glory of God in it all.

jacob could not understand the strange providence which

permitted the same Joseph to be torn from his father's love, but he saw the glory of God when he looked into the face of that same Joseph as the viceroy of a great king, and the preserver of his own life and the lives of a great nation.

and so, perhaps it may be in your life. you say, "i do not understand why God let my dear one be taken. i do not understand why affliction has been permitted to smite me. i do not understand the devious paths by which the Lord is leading me. i do not understand why plans and purposes that seemed good to my eyes should be baffled. i do not understand why blessings i so much need are so long delayed.

"friend, you do not have to understand all God's ways with you. God does not expect you to understand them. you do not expect your child to understand, only believe. some day you will see the glory of God in the things which you do not understand." – j.h. mcC

it is comforting to think of trouble, in whatever form it may come to us, as a heavenly messenger, bringing us something from God. in its earthly aspect it may seem hurtful, even destructive; but in its spiritual out-working it yields blessing. many of the richest blessings which have come down to us from the past are the fruit of sorrow or pain. we should never forget that redemption, the world's greatest blessing, is the fruit of the world's greatest sorrow. in every time of sharp pruning, when the knife is deep and the pain is sore, it is an unspeakable comfort to read, "my Father is the husbandman."

doctor vincent tells of being in a great hothouse where luscious clusters of grapes were hanging on every side. the owner said, "when my new gardener came, he said he would have nothing to do with these vines unless he could cut them clean down to the stalk; and he did, and we had no grapes for two years, but this is the result."

there is rich suggestiveness in this interpretation of the pruning process, as we apply it to the christian life. pruning seems to be destroying the vine, the gardener appears to be cutting it all away; but he looks on into the future and knows that the final outcome will be the enrichment of its life and greater abundance of fruit.

there are blessings we can never have unless we are ready to pay the price of pain. there is no way to reach them save through suffering. - dr. miller

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i think there comes a time in everyone's walk when they have to go by just "blind faith." by that i mean without inclination or feeling, without any confirmation or support. just blind faith saying to self, "i know my God and this cannot stand!" it doesn't matter what it looks like, feels like, smells like or tastes like. senses be damned but God be true.

we continue on in faith, knowing that God has something

better waiting for us. like the gardener doing sharp pruning, when the knife is deep and the pain is sore we remember again our Father is the the Husbandman. we have His promise to cling to: "[I will] not, [I will] not, [I will] not in any degree leave you helpless nor forsake nor let [you] down (relax My hold on you)! [assuredly not!]" heb 13:5 ampc