

sunday solace - weeping may endure for a night

"though I have afflicted thee, I will afflict thee no more." nah 1:12

there is a limit to affliction. God sends (or allows) it, and removes it. do you sigh and say, "when will the end be?" let us quietly wait and patiently endure the will of the Lord till He comes. our Father takes away the rod when His design in using it is fully served.

if the affliction is sent for testing us, that our graces may glorify God, it will end when the Lord has made us bear witness to His praise. we would not wish the affliction to depart until God has gotten out of us all the honor which we can possibly yield Him.

there may be today "a great calm." who knows how soon those raging billows will give place to a sea of glass, and the sea birds sit on the gentle waves? after long tribulation, the flail is hung up, and the wheat rests in the garner. we may then, before many hours are past, be just as happy then as we are sorrowful now.

"it is not hard for the Lord to turn night into day. He that sends the clouds can as easily clear the skies. let us be of good cheer. it is better farther on. let us sing hallelujah by anticipation." - c.h. spurgeon

he great husbandman is not always threshing. trial is only for a season. the showers soon pass. weeping may tarry only for the few hours of the short summer night; it must be gone at daybreak. our light affliction is

but for a moment. trial is for a purpose, "if needs be."

the very fact of trial proves that there is something in us very precious to our Lord; else He would not spend so much pains and time on us. Christ would not test us if He did not see the precious ore of faith mingled in the rocky matrix of our nature; and it is to bring this out into purity and beauty that He forces us through some fiery ordeal.

"be patient, o sufferer! the result will more than compensate for all our trials, when we see how they wrought out the far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory. to have one word of God's commendation; to be honored before the holy angels; to be glorified in Christ, so as to be better able to flash His glory on Himself - ah! that will more than repay for all." -  
from tried by fire