

No confidence in the flesh

Dear Father,

“That I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being made conformable unto His death.”

Some days ago You spoke to me unambiguously. And as I took time to hear more, You made it even clearer to me. “No confidence in the flesh”. The words echoed throughout the day: “No confidence in the flesh”. How true and at the right time. Like apples of gold in settings of silver.

There is nothing I can do but confess. I thought my education, giftedness and all those things...I thought I could lean on them. But, by letting me experience the wrongness of my thoughts these last months, You’ve shown me the opposite. Though I did not like the feelings, I thank You for loving me so much that You discipline me. I don’t say that to sound “Sunday school”, but I mean it.

I do not understand why all my plans, my ambitions seem to have been taken away. Maybe not forever, I don’t know, but at least for a time. I struggle with that. Even to the point of being angry and crying. On the other hand, You give grace to the humble. And how would I really know what will happen tomorrow? If You will, I will live and do: that’s what You say.

I already said it, and I’ll say it again. I understand it’s Your loving protection. For if I would have continued building my fortress of self-made certainty resting on its fundament of perfectionistic legalism, my tower of Babel of pride and self-righteousness would have crushed me. I was on the verge of collapsing but You did not allow that to happen, and that is sheer mercy.

As I am relinquishing my control, not trying to do Your work, You are bringing restoration. But it’s a different kind of restoration. Not my resurrection, but His. You are doing a powerful work in me so that I will have no confidence in the flesh.

“That I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being made conformable unto His death.”

Scriptural references on the second page

Scriptural references in OT-NT order (NKJV)

Proverbs 3:11-12 " My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD, nor detest His correction; For whom the LORD loves He corrects, just as a father the son in whom he delights."

Proverbs 16:18 "Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall."

Proverbs 16:20, 22-23 "He who heeds the word wisely will find good, and whoever trusts in the LORD, happy is he. (...) Understanding is a wellspring of life to him who has it. But the correction of fools is folly. The heart of the wise teaches his mouth, and adds learning to his lips."

Proverbs 25:11 "A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in settings of silver."

Philippians 3:1-11 "Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord. For me to write the same things to you is not tedious, but for you it is safe. Beware of dogs, beware of evil workers, beware of the mutilation! For we are the circumcision, who worship God in the Spirit, rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh, though I also might have confidence in the flesh. If anyone else thinks he may have confidence in the flesh, I more so: circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of the Hebrews; concerning the law, a Pharisee; concerning zeal, persecuting the church; concerning the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.

But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith; that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead."

Hebrews 12:10-11 "For they indeed for a few days chastened us as seemed best to them, but He for our profit, that we may be partakers of His holiness. 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."

James 4:6b "God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble." (Proverbs 3:34)

James 4:13-15 "Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit"; whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away. Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that.""