

Monday, March 30

Scripture reading: James 1:2-4

Very few of us, if asked, would embrace the belief stated above that trials create joy. In fact, we could probably identify many times when we have gone to great lengths in an attempt to avoid a challenging situation.

In the story "The Tea Cup" (author unknown), the story is told of a lump of clay as it is being turned into a beautiful teacup. Through each step of the process, it is pushed, pulled, molded, fired, etc. on its way to becoming the final product. Not knowing what was happening, the tea cup becomes angry with God and keeps asking him to stop, stating that she can't handle any more pain. God's answer, however, continues to be "Wait. I'm not done with you yet." In the end, she is stunned when she sees how God had transformed her. No longer a lump of clay, she instead had become a beautiful teacup.

I have often felt like the tea cup - impatient as I waited for God to answer my prayers or angry with God for putting trials in my path that seemed to get in the way of my plans for my life. However, God's answer to all of us is the same as to that teacup - "Wait. I'm not done with you yet." If we are facing challenges, we can be assured that God is using the situation to do a little molding - of our character, of our personality, of our priorities, etc. But rest assured - God never wastes a situation. So, if you are facing such challenges, you can be assured that you will come out of the experience stronger, shinier (to use the tea cup analogy), and more beautiful than when you started!

Prayer: Dear Lord, it is human nature to want an easy, comfortable life. However, it is only through the trials and tribulations of life that we can grow to be more like You. Please help us to remember that message as we struggle through the difficult situations in our lives. Also, help us to remember that you remain with us through those trying times. In your name we pray, Amen

Written by Cynthia Thompson