

WEEKLY REFLECTION

Do you remember why you started going to church in the first place? What reasons did you have? And did it cost you anything to be there? Paul was reminding the church in Thessalonica that he had warned them of the afflictions they would face, were they to follow Christ. Often when we choose to become a “Christian”, we hold out hope that this would make our lives better, that God would bless our way, and that we would get everything we want. Sadly this isn’t true. It’s not what the Bible says and it’s not what Jesus promised.

In fact, on the contrary, Jesus promised that in this world there will be trouble. That we would face challenges and maybe even persecution. But that we should take heart, because He has overcome the world. When we become a Christian, it’s not that we suddenly will have no problems, but rather, we now have the tools and hope to face the problems.

The early church faced so many problems, yet they stood firm. God used the afflictions they faced to grow the church, and He will also use the afflictions you face to grow you. No pain, no gain. No rain, no rainbows. How much do we truly believe and embrace that truth? That the Lord would use the difficulties you face to grow you and teach you that all you need is Him?

As followers of Christ, do we live our lives with such conviction that others can’t help but notice? Are we willing to choose to put ourselves into positions of discomfort? Knowing that it’s when we’re out of our comfort zone, that we grow the most. Our prayer is that the Lord would give us the strength and willingness to live comfortably uncomfortable.

QUESTIONS

QUESTION ONE:

When you read about the early Christians and what they had to face to even choose to go to church, what does it make you think of? And how does it change the way you approach your decision to go to church?

QUESTION TWO:

Share a time in your life where you personally grew the most. What were the circumstances? What did you learn? How did you grow as a person?

QUESTION THREE:

If the Lord were to call you out of your comfort zone, what do you think He'd make you do?