

(This is an excerpt from my prayer notebook dealing with the subject “Thanksgiving In The Face of Adversity”).

Psalms, Hymns and Prayers of Thanksgiving

**Not thankful that you have them
but rather thankful that God would deem to give them.**

For Meditation on Thankfulness...

(NO WHINING ZONE)

DEU 28:47, 48 "Because you did not serve the Lord your God with joy and a glad heart, for the abundance of all things; therefore you shall serve your enemies ...

Numbers 14:27 How long shall I bear with this evil congregation who are grumbling against Me? I have heard the complaints of the sons of Israel, which they are making against Me.

John Fletcher of Madely “One time meeting him when he was very ill with a hectic fever... I said, ‘I am sorry to find you so ill’ Mr. Fletcher answered with great sweetness and energy. ‘**Sorry, sir! Why are you sorry? It is the chastisement of my heavenly Father, and I rejoice in it. I love the rod of my God, and rejoice therein, as an expression of His love and affection towards me.**’” (JC. Ryle The Christian Leaders of the Last Century; pg 388)

Francis Jane Crosby 1820 – 1915 Fanny Crosby was probably the most prolific hymnist in history. Though blinded by an incompetent doctor at six weeks of age, she wrote over 8,000 hymns. About her blindness, she said: “**It seemed intended by the blessed providence of God that I should be blind all my life, and I thank him for the dispensation. If perfect earthly sight were offered me tomorrow I would not accept it. I might not have sung hymns to the praise of God if I had been distracted by the beautiful and interesting things about me.**”

Painful and harsh men, circumstances and times in the wilderness You have brought into my life to help, train, rebuke and yes redirect me to a new and greater way. I resent this even though I know in my heart of hearts that the only way I would have listened, and having listened been

mature enough to take this new ministry was for You, my Lord, to have used such painful and sorrowful events in bringing it about.

Hebrews 12:10 *For they disciplined us for a short time as seemed best to them, but He disciplines us for our good, so that we may share His holiness.*

Psalm 71:20 Thou, who hast shown me many troubles and distresses, Wilt revive me again, And wilt bring me up again from the depths of the earth.

Psalm 118:18 The Lord has disciplined me severely, But He has not given me over to death.

Hebrews 12:6 For those whom the Lord loves He disciplines, And He scourges every son whom He receives. "

a. People

Genesis 50:20 *And as for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result, to preserve many people alive.*

- 1.) Enemies
- 2.) Rebukes & Corrections
- 3.) Humiliations
- 4.) Self-perceived lack of recognition

Genesis 40:14 & 23 *Only keep me in mind when it goes well with you, and please do me a kindness by mentioning me to Pharaoh, and get me out of this house....Yet the chief cupbearer did not remember Joseph, but forgot him.*

- 5.) Used for others success

Genesis 40:21-23 *And he restored the chief cupbearer to his office, and he put the cup into Pharaoh's hand; but he hanged the chief baker, just as Joseph had interpreted to them. Yet the chief cupbearer did not remember Joseph, but forgot him.*

- 6.) Injustices

Psalm 69:4 *Those who hate me without a cause are more than the hairs of my head; those who would destroy me are powerful, being wrongfully my enemies, what I did not steal, I then have to restore.*

- 7.) Forgotten

Genesis 40:23 *Yet the chief cupbearer did not remember Joseph, but forgot him.*

b. Circumstances

Psalm 119:71 *It is good for me that I was afflicted, That I may learn Thy statutes.*

- 1.) Failures
- 2.) Hardships

- 3.) Pains & Sorrows
- 4.) Sickness
- 5.) Poverty
- 6.) Refining fires
- 7.) Self-perceived unmet needs

Psalm 73:15 If I had said, "I will speak thus," behold, I should have betrayed the generation of Thy children.

c. Times of Barrenness or Fruitlessness

HAB 3:17, 18 Though the fig tree should not blossom, And there be no fruit on the vines, Though the yield of the olive should fail, And the fields produce no food, Though the flock should be cut off from the fold, And there be no cattle in the stalls, Yet I will exult in the Lord, I will rejoice in the God of my salvation.