

The Strings of Difficult Times

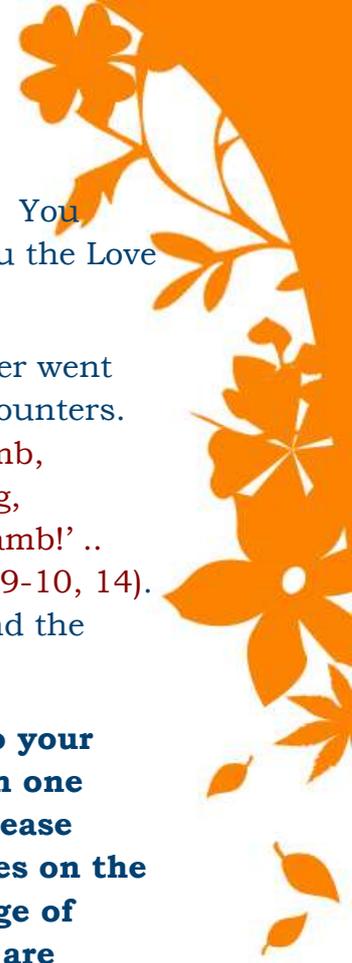
“It is good to give thanks to the Lord; and to sing praises to Your name, O Most High; To declare Your lovingkindness in the morning, and Your faithfulness every night, on an instrument of ten strings” (Ps. 92: 1-3) It is good to give thanks to the Lord in the morning (or at the beginning of a new stage) for His lovingkindness (mercy, love, and tenderness), and at the end of the day proclaiming that the Lord has been faithful throughout the day.

Start your day trusting that the Lord will deal with you with mercy, love, and tenderness, and end your day confessing that the Lord has been with you from the beginning of the day to its end, declaring it on a ten stringed instrument (by praise) “For You, Lord, have made me glad”

On an instrument of ten strings presents rich music full of diverse melodies; this variety enriches our praise. In Isaiah 38: 13 we read about King Hezekiah passing through a very difficult time. He said, “I have considered until morning – like a lion, so He breaks all my bones; ..., O Lord, I am oppressed; undertake for me!” (Is. 38: 13, 14). The strings of difficulties enrich and strengthen our praise. The numerous strings are the product of many divine experiences permitted in our lives by the Lord. This kind of praise pleases the heart of the Lord as it expresses true thankfulness to the Lord; who brought him (and us) victoriously out of the difficulty. For this reason Hezekiah says, ‘the Living, the living man, he shall praise you ,... The Lord was ready to save me; therefore we will sing my songs with strings instruments all the days of our life” (Is 38: 19, 20)

Habakkuk, also, passed through a very difficult time. He was perplexed as he could not understand why God would allow difficult things to take place. He was praying for a change in circumstances, but God did not respond to him. For this reason, he started his book by, “Oh Lord, how long shall I cry, and you will not hear?” (Hab. 1: 1). He ended it by, “Yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation ... with my stringed instruments.” (Hab. 3: 18, 19). He has now had a personal encounter with the Lord to whom he has prayed. The Lord gave him understanding, and rest in the midst of difficulty. He also understood that there will be an answer to his prayer at the appointed time.

“Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God ... we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand ... we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance character, and character hope. Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit” (Rom. 5: 1, 2, 3) Thank the Lord for standing in grace, therefore you



will not be afraid, but will praise the Lord in the midst of difficulty. You know that it is for your benefit. The Holy Spirit will proclaim to you the Love of the Lord while facing difficulty.

The believer's praise is stronger than the angels' because the believer went through a lot of difficulties while the angels did not have these encounters. "A great multitude ... standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes ... and crying out with a loud voice, saying, 'Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!' .. These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation," (Rev. 7: 9-10, 14). They were praising on a ten stringed instrument just like Moses and the Israelites upon their exodus from Egypt.

Facing difficulties brings life to your prayers, and grandness to your praise, ... moves you to study the Word and transfers you from one vessel to another. You will no longer be like Moab who was at ease from his youth; so his bad taste remained in him. Fix your eyes on the Lord Jesus who was crucified for you and get rid of the language of discontent. Trust that the Holy Spirit reveals to you that you are dearly loved ... praise the Lord on a ten stringed instrument.

