

This Thing is From Me¹

My child, I have a message for you today. Let me whisper it in your ear, that it may gild with glory any storm clouds which may arise, and smooth the rough places upon which you may have to tread. It is short, only five words. But let them sink into your inmost soul. Use them as a pillow from which to rest your weary head. "THIS THING IS FROM ME."

Have you ever thought of it, that all that concerns you concerns Me, too? For whoever touches you, touches the apple of His eye (Zech 2:8). I would have you learn, when temptations overwhelm you, that this thing is from Me; that your weakness needs My might. And your safety lies in letting Me fight for you. You are very precious in My sight (Isa 43:4). Therefore it is my special delight to educate you.

Are you in money difficulties? Is it hard to make both ends meet? This thing is from Me. For I am your provider and would have you draw from and depend on Me. My supplies are limitless (Phil 4:19). I would have you prove my promises. Let it not be said of you, "In this thing ye did not believe the Lord your God" (Deut 1:32).

Are you in difficult circumstances, surrounded by people who do not understand you, who never consult your taste, who put you in the background? This thing is from Me. I am the God of circumstances. You did not come to this place by accident, it is the very place God meant for you. Have you not asked to be made humble? See, then, I have placed you in the very school where this lesson is taught. Your surroundings and companions are only working out My will. These have come so that your faith may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

Are you passing through a night of sorrow? This thing is from Me. I am the Man of Sorrows and acquainted with grief. I have let earthly comforters fail you, that, by turning to Me, you may receive everlasting consolation (2 Thess 2:16-17).

Has some friend disappointed you? One to whom you opened your heart? This thing is from Me. I have allowed this disappointment to come that you may learn that "The best friend to have is Jesus. He will hear you when you call; He will keep you lest you fall. The best friend to have is Jesus."

I want to be the one you confide in. Has someone repeated things about you that are not true? Leave them to Me, and draw closer to Me, your shelter out of reach of the strife of tongues, for I will bring forth your righteousness as the light and your judgment as the noonday (Ps 37:6). The salvation of the righteous comes from the Lord. He is their stronghold in time of trouble.

Have your plans been upset? Are you bowed down and weary? This thing is from Me. You made your plans and then asked Me to bless them. But I would have you let Me plan for you, for I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord; plans to prosper you and not to harm you; plans to give you a hope and a future (Jer 29:11). Then I take the responsibility. For this thing is too heavy for you, you are not able to perform it yourself alone (Ex 18:18). You are only an instrument, not an agent.

Have you longed to do some great work for Me, and instead been laid aside on a bed of pain and weakness? This thing is from Me. I want to teach you some of My deepest lessons, so I drew you aside. They also serve who only stand and wait. Then you will call upon Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. You will seek Me and find Me, when you seek me with all your heart (Jeremiah 29:12-13). I want you to learn to sing: "I am not eager, bold, or strong, all that is past: I am ready not to do at last! At last!" Some of My greatest workers are those shut out from active service, that they may learn to wield the weapon of all prayer.

Are you suddenly called upon to occupy a difficult and responsible position? This is from Me. Trust Me. I am trusting you with the possession of difficulties and for this thing the Lord your God shall bless you in all your works and in all you put your hands unto (Deut 15:10). Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles, they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint (Is 40:29-31).

This day I place in your hands this pot of holy oil. Make use of it freely, my child. Let every circumstance that would crush you, every word that pains you, every interruption that would make you impatient, every revelation of your own weakness be anointed with it. Remember, "Interruptions are Divine instructions." The sting will go as you learn to see Me in all things. Therefore, set your hearts unto all the words which I testify among you this day, for it is not a vain thing for you; because it is your life, and through "this thing" you shall prolong your days in the land (Deut 32:46-47). I will turn the darkness into light before them, and make the rough places smooth. These are the things I will do, and I will not forsake them.

¹ Laura A. Barter Snow. This version combines the Faith, Prayer and Tract League version (which can be purchased through <http://www.tractleague.com/aboutus.htm> tract #120) with a version read by Elisabeth Elliott on the radio program "Gateway to Joy", November 19, 1999. (Title of program: "You Can if You Will"; Series: "Giving up Our Rights" and can be read at <http://www.backtothebible.org/gateway/today.htm/7056>).