

¹In the month of Nisan, in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes, when wine was before him, I took up the wine and gave it to the king. Now I had not been sad in his presence. ²And the king said to me, "Why is your face sad, seeing you are not sick? This is nothing but sadness of the heart."

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Then I was very much afraid. ³I said to the king, "Let the king live forever! Why should not my face be sad, when the city, the place of my fathers' graves, lies in ruins, and its gates have been destroyed by fire?" ⁴Then the king said to me, "What are you requesting?" So I prayed to the God of heaven.

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⁵And I said to the king, "If it pleases the king, and if your servant has found favor in your sight, that you send me to Judah, to the city of my fathers' graves, that I may rebuild it." ⁶And the king said to me (the queen sitting beside him), "How long will you be gone, and when will you return?" So it pleased the king to send me when I had given him a time.

03.tif

⁷And I said to the king, "If it pleases the king, let letters be given me to the governors of the province Beyond the River, that they may let me pass through until I come to Judah, ⁸and a letter to Asaph, the keeper of the king's forest,

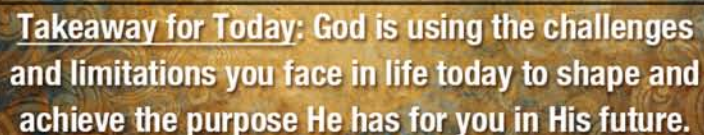
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"... that he may give me timber to make beams for the gates of the fortress of the temple, and for the wall of the city, and for the house that I shall occupy." And the king granted me what I asked, for the good hand of my God was upon me. —Nehemiah 2:1-8 ESV

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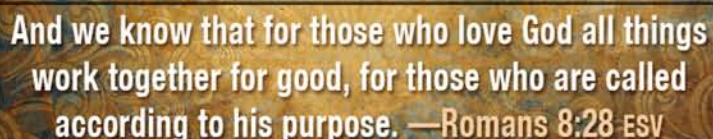
"... the person who risks nothing, does nothing, has nothing, is nothing, and becomes nothing. He may avoid suffering and sorrow, but he simply cannot learn and feel and change and grow and love and live."
—Leo F. Buscaglia

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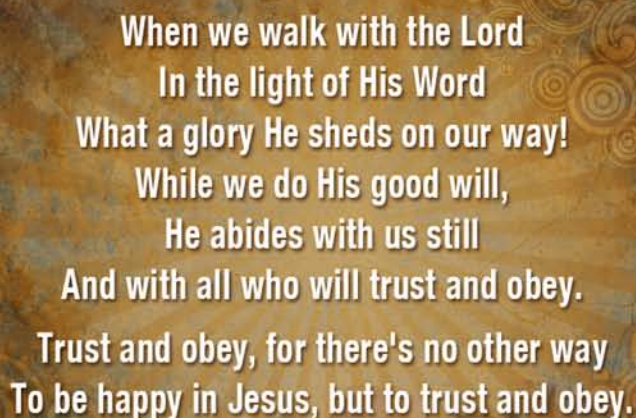
Takeaway for Today: God is using the challenges and limitations you face in life today to shape and achieve the purpose He has for you in His future.

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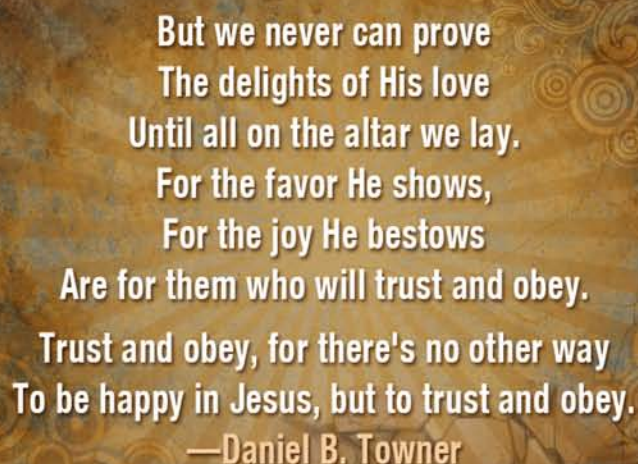
And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. —Romans 8:28 esv

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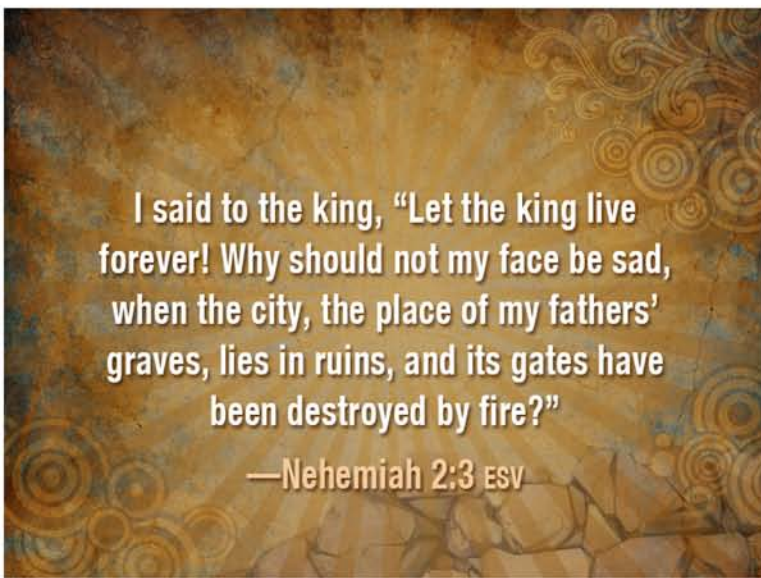
When we walk with the Lord
In the light of His Word
What a glory He sheds on our way!
While we do His good will,
He abides with us still
And with all who will trust and obey.
Trust and obey, for there's no other way
To be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.

09.tif



But we never can prove
The delights of His love
Until all on the altar we lay.
For the favor He shows,
For the joy He bestows
Are for them who will trust and obey.
Trust and obey, for there's no other way
To be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.
—Daniel B. Towner

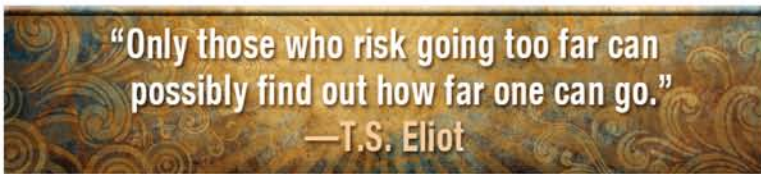
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I said to the king, "Let the king live forever! Why should not my face be sad, when the city, the place of my fathers' graves, lies in ruins, and its gates have been destroyed by fire?"

—Nehemiah 2:3 esv

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"Only those who risk going too far can possibly find out how far one can go."

—T.S. Eliot

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How Do I Rise to God's Call?

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How Do I "R-I-S-E" to God's Call?

Release Your Expectations and Ambitions
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How Do I "R-I-S-E" to God's Call?

Release Your Expectations and Ambitions
Implement Action in Spite of Your Fears
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For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it. —Mark 8:35 ESV

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How Do I "R-I-S-E" to God's Call?

Release Your Expectations and Ambitions
Implement Action in Spite of Your Fears
See Success as Faithfulness in the Crisis as You Walk Through the Process
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And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him. —Hebrews 11:6 ESV

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"There is a tendency to confuse success with the rewards of success. If you are where God wants you, fulfilling the responsibilities He has given you, you are successful. In fact, when that is the case, you are as successful as you will ever be. Granted you may not be seeing or experiencing the rewards of success you desire, but you are successful. Success is remaining faithful to the process God has laid out for you." —Andy Stanley

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How Do I "R-I-S-E" to God's Call?

Release Your Expectations and Ambitions
Implement Action in Spite of Your Fears
See Success as Faithfulness in the Crisis as You Walk Through the Process
Expect to See God's Hand at Work in Your Life

20.tif

Arise, O LORD; O God, lift up your hand; forget not the afflicted. —Psalm 10:12 ESV

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Into your hand I commit my spirit; you have redeemed me, O LORD, faithful God. —Psalm 31:5 ESV

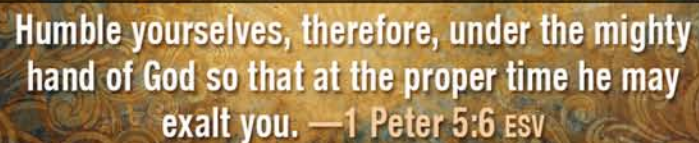
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Behold, as the eyes of servants look to the hand of their master, as the eyes of a maidservant to the hand of her mistress, so our eyes look to the LORD our God, till he has mercy upon us. —Psalm 123:2 ESV

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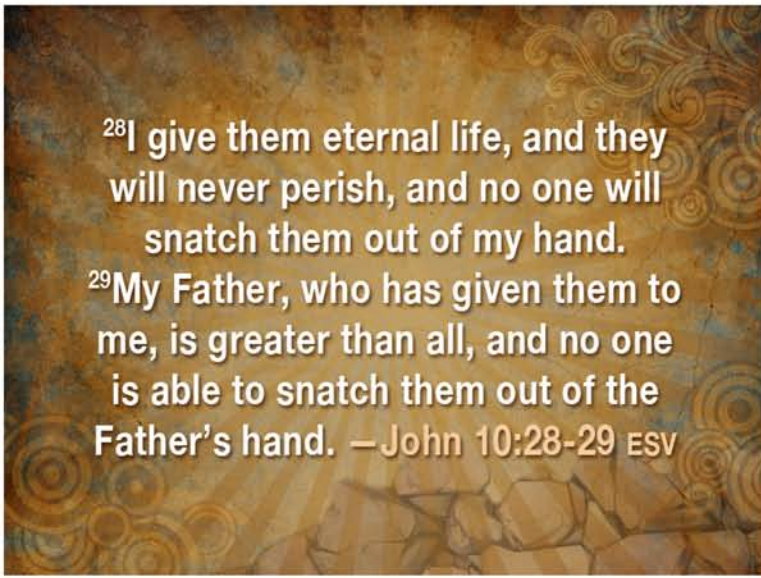
²³The steps of a man are established by the LORD, when he delights in his way; ²⁴though he fall, he shall not be cast headlong, for the LORD upholds his hand. —Psalm 37:23-24 ESV

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Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you. —1 Peter 5:6 ESV

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²⁸I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand.
²⁹My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. —John 10:28-29 ESV

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