

Forerunners for Christ Los Angeles

October 27, 2024 – The Forerunner Message in the End Times – Erlinda Cruz

Do Not Waste Your Wilderness (Part 4)

Study on the Topic of Endurance to “Not Waste Our Wilderness” by Autumn Crew FAI Pt. 4

We know from Scripture that we will suffer in this age, and I’m sure you’ve heard it said: “but the promise He gave us is that He will be with us in our suffering.” That’s true, and it is the greatest comfort we could find. But I want to flip the script for a moment, and consider that it may also be us who are present in His sufferings.

In Philippians 3, Paul writes, “I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of His resurrection and participation in His sufferings, becoming like Him in His death, and so, somehow attaining to the resurrection from the dead.”[1] Some translations say “to know the power of His resurrection and fellowship in His sufferings.”

When we suffer, we’re entering into a part of God’s experience that allows us to know Him deeper, a part of Him we can only know through pain.

We’re entering into something He has been very familiar with for a long time, but now we can fellowship with Him over a deeply intimate experience. We quickly grab ahold of the promises in scripture pertaining to our well-being and declare them over our lives, but I don’t see many people jumping to name and claim “the participation in His sufferings, becoming like Him in His death.”

Yes, God is very present with us in our pain—but not as a distant figure who has the luxury of avoiding suffering, or an onlooker, not even as a friend who cares but can’t relate. When we ache, we step into the very heart of God who knew agony to be present with Him there. Jesus was literally called “the Man of sorrows, acquainted with grief.” [2] How could we relate to Him without ever having known any form of sorrow?

In the throes of our trials, it’s easy to ask God if He cares, if He still has compassion for us. But has your pain ever caused you to have compassion for Him? It’s a scandalous thought, I know. God is no weak creature. But He does have a heart, and He feels. He did not separate Himself from us so as to remain unaffected by the brokenness of the world. Does our pain make us aware of what He went through for our sake, what He continuously goes through now? Or does it just make us angry at Him?