



Just Light Afflictions

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I confess that sometimes things simply fall apart. The **cares of this life** and the **weights of the world** become so tremendous that I wonder if I can persevere. At those times it is clear that I have briefly taken my focus off of my Savior. My eyes are ablaze with circumstances instead of aglow with Christ.

A good cry and a full dose of Scripture always lifts me up and sets me on track again. Recently while addressing the hardship of finances and the challenges of relationships, the Spirit of the Lord spoke quietly to me...**just light afflictions**.

Wow! How true! **Just light afflictions!** My present circumstances were fleeting, passing, changing; they in no way determined my calling, purpose and destiny. **"I am secure in Christ despite all of my difficulties!"** I reasoned with renewed confidence.

On my desk was a recent letter from a dear cousin, "nothing in time is ever eternal, and everything in time has a beginning and end," he wrote. As I meditated on the soundness of those words, I was led to II Corinthians 4:16-18:

*"For which cause we **FAINT NOT**; but though our **OUTWARD** man perish, yet the **INWARD** man is **RENEWED** day by day. For our **LIGHT AFFLICTION**, which is but for **A MOMENT** works for us a far more **EXCEEDING** and eternal **WEIGHT OF GLORY**; while we **LOOK** not at the things which are **SEEN**, but at the things which are **NOT SEEN**: for the things which are seen are **TEMPORARY**; but the things which are not seen are **ETERNAL**. (emphasis mine)*

My entire outlook changed in the light of God's Word! It was as if the skirt of my trouble had unraveled and was laid bare before me. My problems were not as "big and bad" as I had imagined. They were in reality, *just light afflictions!* Perhaps you are in a similar place and are crushed under the weight of woe. Turn away from it, for a fresh gaze upon God and His Word. Soon the weight will lift and the light will shine. The reality of your circumstance may still exist, but its tremendous size, tormenting strength and unceasing threats will shrink in the Shadow of the Almighty! Be encouraged...this too shall pass!