

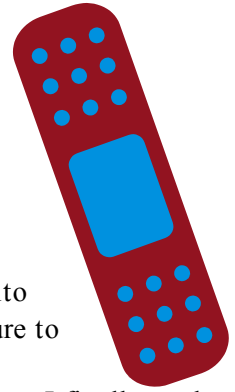
Scripture verses: 1 Corinthians 13:12 and 2 Corinthians 1:3

Hymn: No, Not One

Jesus knows all about our struggles; He will guide 'til the day is done.

Jesus Knows

Last week, I was reaching into a basket to get a garbage bag and something poked into my thumb, under my fingernail. Ouch! It hurt terribly. It was hard to apply pressure to the pain, because my nail was covering it! It continued to hurt into the evening, throbbing constantly, and I was distracted to the point of not being able to fall asleep. I finally took some aspirin. (I didn't do that when it happened, as I thought it was too insignificant, for medicine!) I also couldn't bend my thumb for days. Now, a week later, I have a small red spot under my nail that shows the injury- not much to show for the pain that I felt!



I thought about it and realized that it's a lot like our inward pain and struggles. On the outside, they look insignificant and small, or even entirely unseen by others. But to us, they can feel quite painful, even to the point of distraction. These times are when we realize all the more that only our God can see and understand us, like no person can. He acknowledges our pain and knows how much it hurts, and gives us sympathy and compassion. And, since He is the Father of mercies and the God of all comfort, He can bring us comfort. It's a promise, because He says that we will have His comfort, to comfort others! (2 Corinthians 1:3-4) But first we must go to Him and show Him. Like a child who, without even thinking twice, runs to his mother to show her his injury, we too must run to our God.

Jesus modeled this perfectly to us- in His sufferings, He prayed. We know this because, when the Father was *not* with Him in His sufferings [when He made Jesus to be sin and poured out His wrath upon Him], Jesus cried out, "My God, my God, why have You forsaken Me?" Jesus was accustomed to having the fellowship of the Father, His comfort, in His sufferings.

But He did suffer alone in those hours so that we would not have to suffer alone. Jesus will not and cannot ever leave His people. He is not willing that we suffer alone. Let us give Him our pain. He will surely help:

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin. Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

Hebrews 4:15-16

Do not suffer alone.