

# Watch Where You Walk

*"Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve my life."*

*Psalm 138:7 NIV*

The Psalmist speaks of his journey through life as "walking". He tells us that he finds walking a troublesome exercise. What the "trouble" was is not stated by the writer. This means any of his readers may put themselves in his place and say what he does about his or her trouble.

I recall speaking from this Psalm many years ago at a prayer meeting in the church I served at the time. One delightful deacon spoke to me after the meeting and said with great sincerity that his life was one devoid of trouble, and he counted himself blessed to be free from the difficulties that so many Christians seem to have in life. Of course I congratulated him on being in such an enviable situation.

I quietly noted to myself that the Lord chastens every child of His according to Hebrews 12:5-8 (NIV) where it says;

"My son, do not make light

of the Lord's discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you, because the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and he chastens everyone he accepts as his son.' Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as his children. For what children are not disciplined by their father? 8 If you are not disciplined—and everyone undergoes discipline—then you are not legitimate, not true sons and daughters at all."

Soon enough the Lord proved to the man he was His child because the "chastening" hand of the Lord fell on him. I am glad to say the man grew in grace through the trouble in his life, and he became a much stronger person for the discipline.

We should never "make light of the Lord's discipline" by pretending it does not exist. Nor should we "lose heart when he rebukes" us. These two extremes should be avoided. We should always remember what the Psalmist did.

The Lord preserves us when in trouble, and when we get through the difficulty we shall be like gold (Job 23:10). So turn into the loving arms of the Lord when in trouble and accept the trouble that comes your way.

John Rippon wrote the following words as coming from the Lord:

When through fiery trials  
your pathway will lie,  
My grace, all sufficient,  
will be your supply.  
The flames will not hurt you;  
I only design  
Your dross to consume  
and your gold to refine.

Come to your heavenly Father and accept His discipline. He loves you too much to allow the dross to remain in your life. Come to Him and come now.

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