

# Strength From the Sorrow

by Charles E. Cowman

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*In the midst of sorrow, we must press on in duty and remember that God has a greater plan for us.*

**Scripture:** Joshua 1:1, Psalm 30:5, Romans 8:18, 2 Corinthians 4:17, Philippians 3:13

**Topics:** "Suffering And Strength", "Christian Perseverance"

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## Description

Charles E. Cowman preaches about the importance of pressing on in duty and not giving in to despair, even in the midst of deep sorrow and loss. He emphasizes the need to continue fulfilling our responsibilities and tasks, as pausing to indulge in grief could harm others and holy interests. Sorrow, though leaving deep scars, can have a humanizing and fertilizing influence when accepted and borne cheerfully. By turning away from darkness and embracing the tasks God calls us to, we can find true comfort and grow stronger.

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## Transcript

"Now it came to pass after the death of Moses, the servant of the Lord, that the Lord spake unto Joshua, the son of Nun, Moses' minister, saying, Moses my servant is dead; now, therefore arise, go over this Jordan, thou and all this people" (Joshua 1:1-2).

Sorrow came to you yesterday, and emptied your home. Your first impulse now is to give up, and sit down in despair amid the wrecks of your hopes. But you dare not do it. You are in the line of battle, and the crisis is at hand. To falter a moment would be to imperil some holy interest. Other lives would be harmed by your pausing, holy interests would suffer, should your hands be folded. You must not linger even to indulge your grief.

A distinguished general related this pathetic incident of his own experience in time of war. The general's son was a lieutenant of battery. An assault was in progress. The father was leading his division in a charge; as he pressed on in the field, suddenly his eye was caught by the sight of a dead battery-officer lying just before him. One glance showed him it was his own son. His fatherly impulse was to stop beside the loved form and give vent to his grief, but the duty of the moment demanded that he should press on in the charge; so, quickly snatching one hot kiss from the dead lips, he hastened away, leading his command in the assault.

Weeping inconsolably beside a grave can never give back love's banished treasure, nor can any blessing come out of such sadness. Sorrow makes deep scars; it writes its record ineffaceably on the heart which

suffers. We really never get over our great griefs; we are never altogether the same after we have passed through them as we were before. Yet there is a humanizing and fertilizing influence in sorrow which has been rightly accepted and cheerfully borne. Indeed, they are poor who have never suffered, and have none of sorrow's marks upon them. The joy set before us should shine upon our grief as the sun shines through the clouds, glorifying them. God has so ordered, that in pressing on in duty we shall find the truest, richest comfort for ourselves. Sitting down to brood over our sorrows, the darkness deepens about us and creeps into our heart, and our strength changes to weakness. But, if we turn away from the gloom, and take up the tasks and duties to which God calls us, the light will come again, and we shall grow stronger.

--J. R. Miller

Thou knowest that through our tears  
Of hasty, selfish weeping  
Comes surer sin, and for our petty fears  
Of loss thou hast in keeping  
A greater gain than all of which we dreamed;  
Thou knowest that in grasping  
The bright possessions which so precious seemed  
We lose them; but if, clasping  
Thy faithful hand, we tread with steadfast feet  
The path of thy appointing,  
There waits for us a treasury of sweet  
Delight, royal anointing  
With oil of gladness and of strength.

--Helen Hunt Jackson

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