

# But a Flea-Bite!

by Thomas Brooks

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*Christian, your present afflictions are but a flea-bite compared to the torments of the damned, and you should respond with humility and silence.*

**Scripture:** Romans 8:18, 2 Corinthians 4:17, Hebrews 12:5

**Topics:** "Suffering", "Perspective on Affliction"

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## Description

Thomas Brooks emphasizes that the afflictions Christians face in this life are minor when compared to the eternal torments experienced by the damned. He reminds believers that many in hell have sinned less severely and against clearer light than they have. Brooks urges Christians to reflect on the severity of their own sins and the mercy they have received, suggesting that their current sufferings are merely 'flea-bites' in comparison to the endless pain of the lost. He calls for humility and silence before God in the face of temporal suffering, encouraging a perspective of gratitude rather than complaint.

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## Transcript

Christian! Your present afflictions are not great--if compared with the afflictions and torments of many of the damned, who when they were in this world, never sinned at so high a rate as you have done! There are many now in hell, who never sinned against such clear light as you have done, nor against such special love as you have done, nor against such precious mercies as you have done! Certainly there are many now a-roaring in everlasting burnings, who never sinned as you have done!

What are your afflictions, your present torments--compared to the torments of the damned, whose torments are . . .

numberless,  
bottomless,  
remediless, and  
endless!

Whose pains are without intermission of mitigation; who have:  
weeping served for the first course, and  
gnashing of teeth for the second course, and  
the gnawing worm for the third course, and  
intolerable pain for the fourth course!

Yet the pain of the body is least part of pain. The very soul of  
sorrow and pain is the soul's sorrow and pain! The everlasting  
alienation and separation from God is served for the fifth course!

Ah, Christian! how can you seriously think on these things and  
not lay your hand upon your mouth--even when you are under  
the greatest temporal sufferings? Your sins have been far greater  
than many of those who are now in hell, and your 'great' afflictions  
are but a flea-bite! compared to theirs! Therefore hush your  
murmuring, and be silent before the Lord!

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