

Lesson 79

Suggested Hymn:
#124 Be Still My Soul

Adversity: Trials of the Faithful



Alma 14



Adversity



“Adversity comes from different sources. You may at times face trials as a consequence of your own pride and disobedience.

These trials can be avoided through righteous living. Other trials are simply a natural part of life and may come at times when you are living righteously.

For example, you may experience trials in times of sickness or uncertainty or at the deaths of loved ones.

Adversity may sometimes come because of others’ poor choices and hurtful words and actions.

“Your success and happiness, both now and in the eternities, depend largely on your responses to the difficulties of life”

True to the Faith



Believers and Non Believers

“And it came to pass after he had made an end of speaking unto the people many of them did believe on his words, and began to repent, and to search the scriptures.”



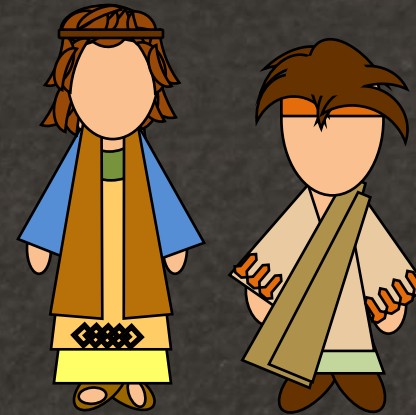
“But the more part of them were desirous that they might destroy Alma and Amulek; for they were angry with Alma, because of the plainness of his words unto Zeezrom; and they also said that Amulek had lied unto them, and had reviled against their law and also against their lawyers and judges.”

“When the servants of falsehood contend with the servants of truth, each side must fight with its own weapons. The servant of light cannot use falsehoods to advance their cause nor can the servants of the prince of darkness use truth...”

JFM and RLM

Trials

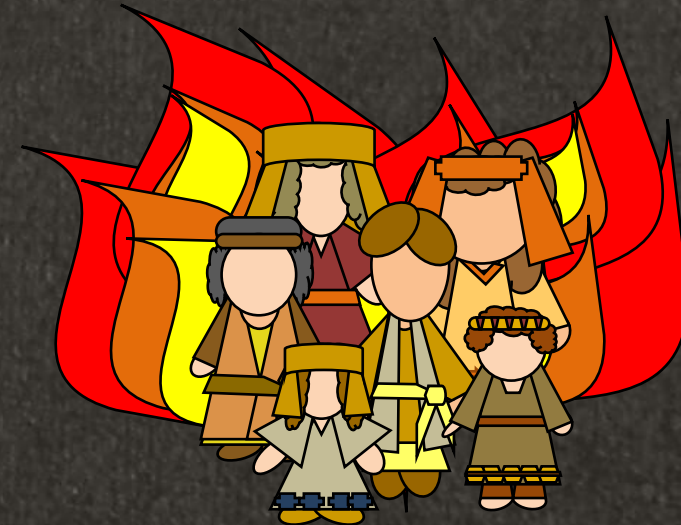
Alma and Amulek:
People wanted to destroy them
Bound them in cords
Presented them to chief judge
Witnessed against them
Cast out and sent men to cast stones at them
The people made them witness the burning of
the women and children



Female and Male converts and children:
The people caused them to be cast into the
fire and their scriptures were burnt also



Zeezrom:
Encircled about with 'pains of hell'
Plead for Alma and Amulek
People accused him of being of the devil
The people cast him out and sent men to cast
stones at him



He Doth Suffer--Allows

When Amulek saw the suffering of the women and children, he wanted to exercise the power of the priesthood to save them.

Why did the Lord permit these women and children to be burned?

The Lord allowed the people to suffer so their deaths could stand as a witness against the people who killed them—Student Manual



*“For the Lord suffereth the righteous to be slain that his justice and judgment may come upon the wicked; therefore ye need not suppose that the righteous are lost because they are slain; but behold, they do enter into the rest of the Lord their God.”
Alma 60:13*

Those Who Suffer Vs Those Who Harm

**The Lord will
bless and
reward those
who suffer for
their belief in
Him**



**God will hold
those who
harm innocent
people
accountable for
their actions**

To Be Blessed

“God is not the author of evil, yet within limits and bounds he allows it to exist.”

Suffering sanctifies the souls of the faithful. Saints throughout the ages have been known to suffer for being faithful to the Lord.

“God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect.”
Hebrews 11:40

It was the Lord’s will to allow the people to suffer

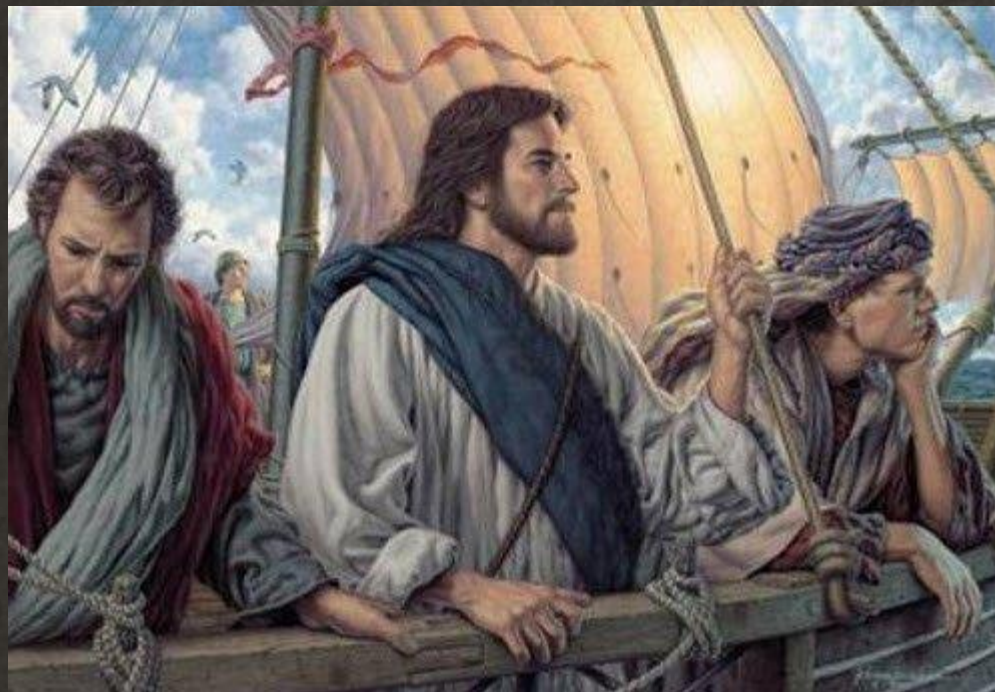
However

This is not always the case. The Lord loves all his children and wants them to be happy and have peace in their lives.

If anyone is being hurt or abused in any way, they should seek help from a parent or Church leader so they can resolve the problem.



When we experience suffering and afflictions, we can choose to trust in the Lord



“The example of Alma and Amulek is enlightening. While striving to do good among the people of Ammonihah, they were taken captive. Amulek trusted his more seasoned companion, Alma, who led him to greater confidence in the Lord. Forced to observe women and children consumed by fire, Amulek said, ‘Perhaps they will burn us also.’ Alma answered: *‘Be it according to the will of the Lord’*—a vital principle. ‘But ... our work is not finished; therefore they burn us not’ [Alma 14:12–13; emphasis added]”

Richard G. Scott



Permits

What are some other reasons the Lord might permit us to suffer?

He wants us to understand the consequences of unwise decisions

He wants us to develop patience

He wants us to develop empathy for others who suffer

He wants us to understand that we need to rely on Him

Student Manual 2013



“Sometimes the Lord’s people are hounded and persecuted. Sometimes He deliberately lets His faithful saints linger and suffer, in both body and spirit, to prove them in all things, and to see if they will abide in His covenant, even unto death, that they may be found worthy of eternal life. If such be the lot of any of us, so be it.”

Elder Bruce R. McConkie

In His Own Way and Time



*How long shall we suffer these
great afflictions, O Lord? O
Lord, give us strength according to
our faith which is in Christ, even
unto deliverance.*

**If we call on the
Lord in faith, He
will strengthen
us in our
afflictions and
deliver us in His
way and in His
own time**



"It is true I am weak enough to weep at the death of my friends and kindred. I may shed tears when I see the grief of others. I have sympathy in my soul for the children of men. I can weep with them when they weep; I can rejoice with them when they rejoice; but I have no cause to mourn, nor to be sad because death comes into the world..."

...All fear of this death has been removed from the Latter-day Saints. They have no dread of the temporal death, because they know that as death came upon them by the transgression of Adam, so by the righteousness of Jesus Christ shall life come unto them, and though they die they shall live again. Possessing this knowledge, they have joy even in death, for they know that they shall rise again and shall meet again beyond the grave."

Joseph F. Smith



Protection Through Torture

Chief judge—smote Alma and Amulek 3 times and sent them to prison

The Chief Judge over the land of Ammonihah subjected them through torture

After 3 days lawyers, judges, priests, and teachers—all after the order of Nehor, questions Alma and Amulek



Alma and Amulek were silent

They were still bound in cords

Many times they questioned and mocked Alma and Amulek

They withheld food from them and their clothing was taken from them

O Lord, Give Us Strength

On the 12th day of the tenth month in the 10th year of the reign of the judges



Liz Lemon Swindle

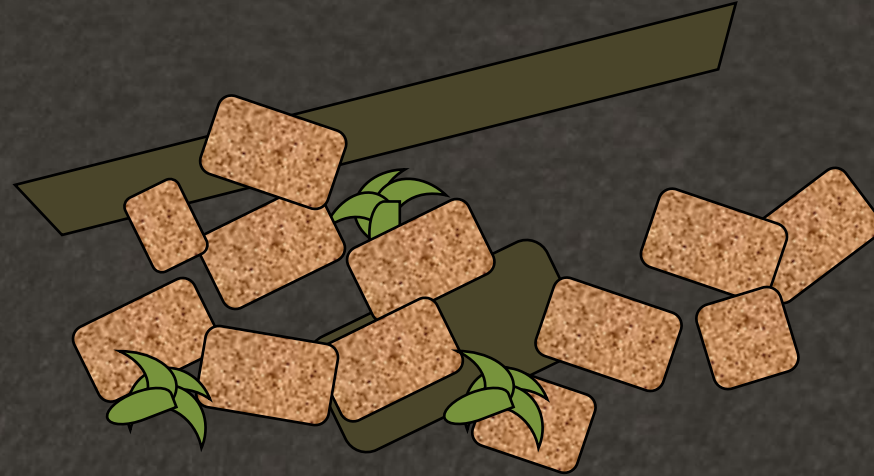
Read Joseph Smith's Plea
while in Prison: D&C 121:1-6



If we call on the Lord in faith, He will strengthen us in our afflictions and deliver us in His way and in His own time.

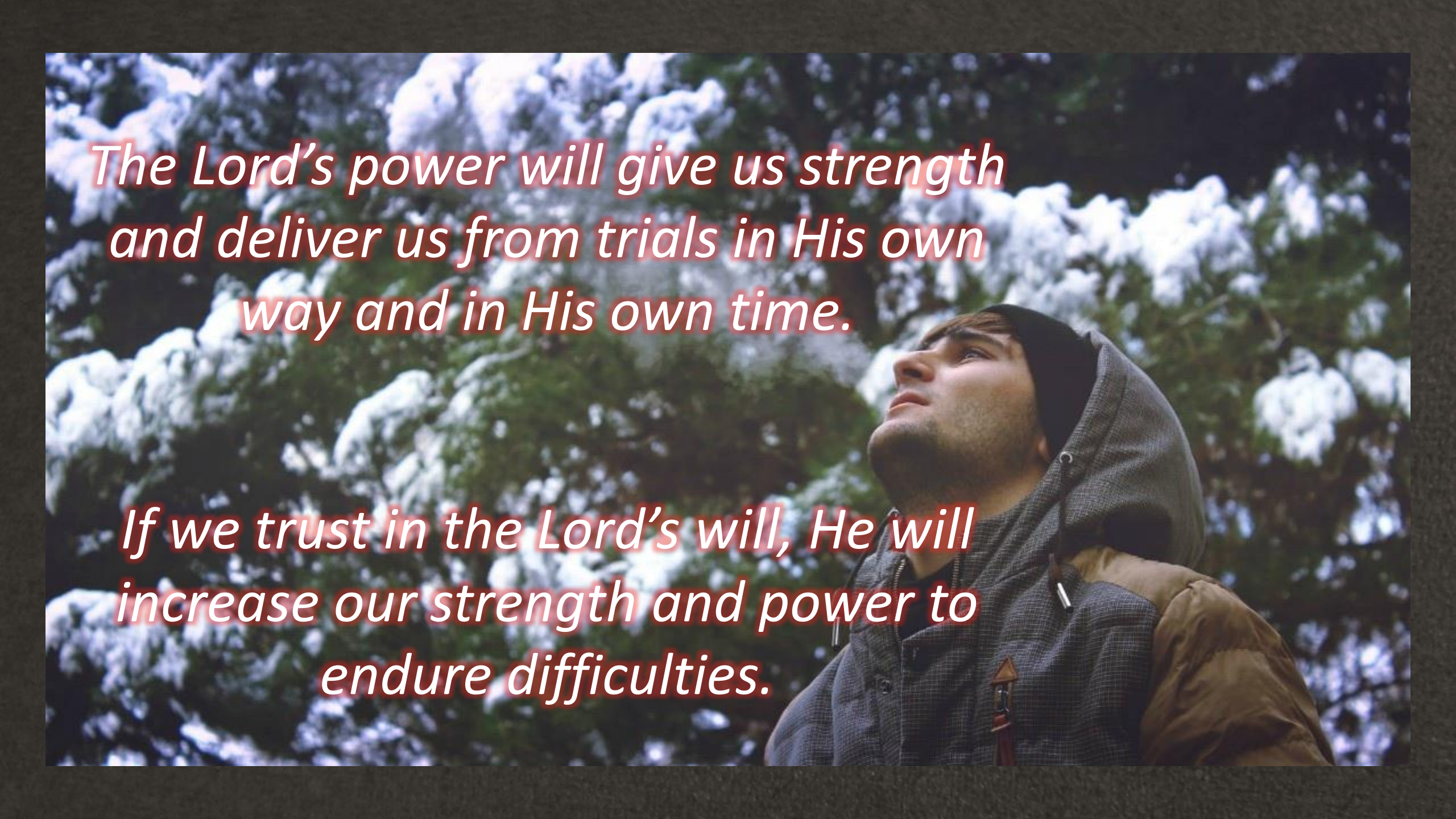
The Earth Did Quake

“And it came to pass that so great was their fear that they fell to the earth, and did not obtain the outer door of the prison; and the earth shook mightily, and the walls of the prison were rent in twain, so that they fell to the earth; and the chief judge, and the lawyers, and priests, and teachers, who smote upon Alma and Amulek, were slain by the fall thereof.”



“And Alma and Amulek came forth out of the prison, and they were not hurt; for the Lord had granted unto them power, according to their faith which was in Christ. And they straightway came forth out of the prison; and they were loosed from their bands; and the prison had fallen to the earth, and every soul within the walls thereof, save it were Alma and Amulek, was slain; and they straightway came forth into the city.”



A young man with dark hair, wearing a grey hooded jacket, is looking upwards with a contemplative expression. He is positioned in the lower right foreground. The background is filled with dense evergreen trees heavily laden with snow, creating a soft, wintry atmosphere. The lighting is natural, suggesting an overcast day.

*The Lord's power will give us strength
and deliver us from trials in His own
way and in His own time.*

*If we trust in the Lord's will, He will
increase our strength and power to
endure difficulties.*

Sources:

(True to the Faith: A Gospel Reference [2004], 8–9).

Joseph Fielding McConkie and Robert L. Millet Doctrinal Commentary on the Book of Mormon Vol 3 pg. 108-109

Richard G. Scott (“To Be Healed,” *Ensign*, May 1994, 8).

Elder Bruce R. McConkie (“The Dead Who Die in the Lord,” *Ensign*, Nov. 1976, 108).

President Joseph F. Smith (in Conference Report, Oct. 1899, 70).

Joseph Smith in Liberty Jail by Liz Lemon Swindle



Other Quotes on Trials

“...the right question to ask is not why good people have trials, but how shall good people respond when they are tried?... God does not deny us the experience we came here to have. He does not insulate us from tribulation or guarantee immunity from trouble. Much of the pain we suffer and inevitably impose upon others is self-induced through our own bad judgment, through poor choices...But much that happens to us in this life we cannot control; we only respond. Knowing what God has promised can provide the courage and faith we need. We are assured in the scriptures that we may know of a surety that the Lord does visit his people in their afflictions. Thus the promise is that in times of sorrow and affliction, if we endure and remain faithful and put our trust in him and are courageous, the Lord will visit us in our afflictions, strengthen us to carry our burdens and support us in our trials. He'll be with us to the end of our days, lift us at the last day to greater opportunities for service, and exalt us at last with him and reunited loved ones, and he will consecrate our afflictions to our gain.” Marion D. Hanks *A Loving, Communicating God* (Ensign, Nov 1992)

“Yes, each of us will walk the path of disappointment, perhaps due to an opportunity lost, a power misused, or a loved one not taught. The path of temptation, too, will be the path of each. “And it must needs be that the devil should tempt the children of men, or they could not be agents unto themselves... (D&C 29:39)...Likewise shall we walk the path of pain. We cannot go to heaven in a feather bed. The Savior of the world entered after great pain and suffering. We, as servants, can expect no more than the Master. Before Easter there must be a cross.” Thomas S. Monson *The Paths Jesus Walked* Ensign Sept 1992

One cannot look at suffering, regardless of its causes or origins, without feeling pain and compassion. I can understand why someone who lacks an eternal perspective might see the horrifying news footage of starving children and man's inhumanity to man and shake a fist at the heavens and cry, “If there is a God, how could he allow such things to happen?” ...God has put his plan in motion. It proceeds through natural laws that are, in fact, God's laws. Since they are his, he is bound by them, as are we...he Lord can control the elements. For the most part, however, he does not cause but he allows nature to run its course. In this imperfect world, bad things sometimes happen....(However) much adversity is man-made...At times we will be affected adversely by the way other people choose to exercise their agency. Our Heavenly Father feels so strongly about protecting our agency that he allows his children to exercise it, either for good or for evil...But if we know and understand Heavenly Father's plan, we realize that dealing with adversity is one of the chief ways we are tested. M. Russell Ballard *Answers to Life's Questions* Ensign May 1995

Prayer and Faith Alma 14:26, 28:

“As the Savior entered the Garden of Gethsemane, His soul was exceedingly sorrowful, even unto death. In His agony, the only one He could turn to was His Father. He pleaded, ‘If it be possible, let this cup pass from me.’ But He added, ‘Nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt.’ [Matthew 26:39; see also verse 38] Though sinless, the Savior was called upon to ‘[suffer] pains and afflictions and temptations of every kind,’ including the sicknesses and infirmities of His people. ‘[He] suffereth according to the flesh that he might take upon him the sins of his people, that he might blot out their transgressions according to the power of his deliverance.’ [Alma 7:11, 13.] Three times He prayed, ‘Father, thy will be done’ [see Matthew 26:39–44]. The cup was not removed. In humble, faithful prayer He was strengthened to go forward and fulfill His divine mission to prepare for our salvation, that we might repent, believe, obey, and obtain the blessings of eternity.

“The answers we receive in prayer may not be what we would desire. But in times of trouble, our prayers become a lifeline of love and tender mercy. In our pleading, we may be strengthened to go forward and fulfill all that we have been ordained to do. To His Saints living in perilous times, the Lord says, ‘Let your hearts be comforted ... ; for all flesh is in mine hands; be still and know that I am God’ [Doctrine and Covenants 101:16]” (Carol F. McConkie, **“The Soul's Sincere Desire”** *Ensign or Liahona*, Nov. 2016, 26).