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3

1 Cor 13:9,12 For we know in part and we prophesy in part. ... <sup>12</sup> For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known.

Acts 16:6-7 Now when they had gone through Phrygia and the region of Galatia, they were forbidden by the Holy Spirit to preach the word in Asia. <sup>7</sup> After they had come to Mysia, they tried to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit did not permit them.

4

## 2. Hardly ever easy

5

Mt 7:14 Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.

Lk 14:26-33 "If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple. <sup>27</sup> And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple. ... <sup>33</sup> So likewise, whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple.

Jn 16:33 These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."

Moses – "if I have found favor in Your sight, please kill me here and now" (Num 11:15)

Elijah – "It is enough! Now, Lord, take my life, for I am no better than my fathers!" (1 Kings 19:4)

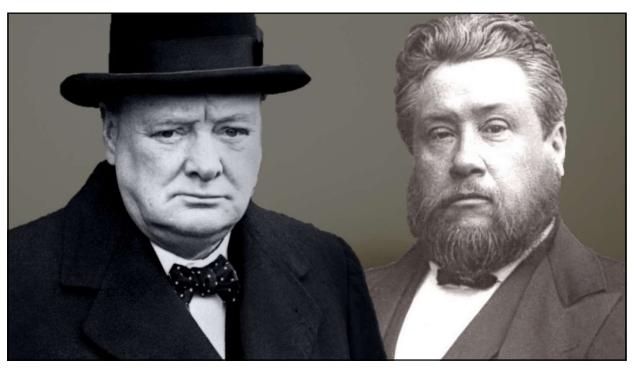
Jonah – "Now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live!" (Jonah 4:3)

David – "Why are you cast down, O my soul? And why are you disquieted within me?" (Ps 42:5)

John the Baptist – "do we look for another" (Mt 11:2-3)

Paul – "we despaired of life" (2 Cor 1:8)

7

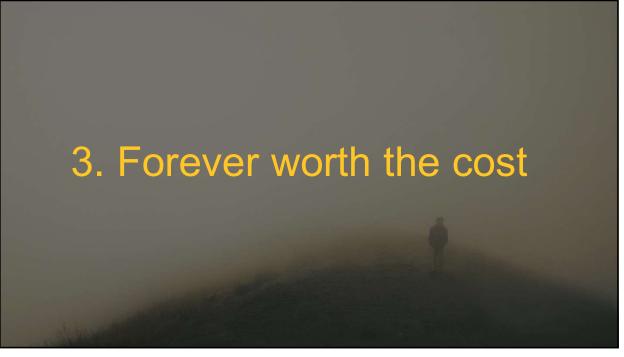


8

Heb 11:33-38 ... stopped the mouths of lions, <sup>34</sup> quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. <sup>35</sup> Women received their dead raised to life again. Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. <sup>36</sup> Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment. <sup>37</sup> They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented—
<sup>38</sup> of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth.

9

2 Tim 4:10-17 for Demas has forsaken me, having loved this present world, and has departed for Thessalonica ... <sup>11</sup> Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful to me for ministry. ... <sup>14</sup> Alexander the coppersmith did me much harm. May the Lord repay him according to his works. <sup>15</sup> You also must beware of him, for he has greatly resisted our words. <sup>16</sup> At my first defense no one stood with me, but all forsook me. May it not be charged against them. ... <sup>17</sup> Also I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion.



11

Phil 1:12 But I want you to know, brethren, that the things which happened to me have actually turned out for the furtherance of the gospel,

Phil 3:7-8 But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. <sup>8</sup> Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ

2 Cor 4:17 For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory,

Rom 8:18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

1 Pet 4:13 but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy.

13



"God never said that the journey would be easy, but he did say that the arrival would be worthwhile. He may not do what you want, but he will do what is right...and best. He's the Father of forward motion. Trust Him. He will get you home. And the trials of the trip will be lost in the joys of the feast."

Max Lucado, Safe In the Shepherd's Arms