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**Mike Baird**

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**Adversity – Stand in Holy Places**

Gordon B Hinckley

" In recent months all of us have been made very aware of terrible tragedies that can strike in the world. Some of these are politically motivated like the terrorist attacks in New York or Madrid or Bali. Other tragedies come from more natural sources, such as the terrible southeast Asian tsunami that recently struck so near your part of the world or the flooding we have seen recently in California and Utah.

"These are the large, visible disasters that get a lot of attention in the press, and we are concerned for all such people. But today I am thinking of more private challenges, concerns of the heart and spirit — challenges not documented by newspapers or TV cameras but which are challenges nevertheless, perhaps known only in your local ward or within individual families or in the privacy of individual hearts — heartaches and fears, sorrows and challenges, perhaps more spiritual in nature than physical. Like natural disasters, we cannot always avoid or avert these moments of testing in life but we can be as prepared as possible for them when they do come, and we can go to places of safety when they strike.

"When the winds and waves of adversity swirl around you, do as the scriptures say — 'stand in holy places.' Stand on the firm, high ground of gospel living and know that not even the forces of the devil can move you from spiritual safety. To the early saints the Lord said, 'Let your hearts be comforted . . . . Zion shall not be moved out of her place . . . .' ("Turning tragedy into blessings" Saturday, March 19, 2005, LDS Church News)

**Adversity is necessary**

Harold B Lee

" There is a refining process that comes through suffering, I think, that we can't experience any other way than by suffering. We draw closer to Him who gave His life that man might be. We feel a kinship that we have never felt before. He suffered more than we can ever imagine. But to the extent that we have suffered, somehow it seems to have the effect of drawing us closer to the divine, helps to

purify our souls, and helps to purge out the things that are not pleasing in the sight of the Lord." (The teachings of Harold B Lee, pg 187)

John Taylor

"I heard the Prophet Joseph say, in speaking to the Twelve on one occasion: "You will have all kinds of trials to pass through. And it is quite as necessary for you to be tried as it was for Abraham and other men of God, and (said he) God will feel after you, and He will take hold of you and wrench your very heart strings, and if you cannot stand it you will not be fit for an inheritance in the Celestial Kingdom of God." (Journal of Discourses, 24:264)

Harold B Lee

"A young mother went through the trying experience of having a little child who was killed in an accident, and she came seeking a blessing for comfort. She asked through her tears, "Must there always be pain in this life?"

I thought a few minutes and then said, "The Apostle Paul said of the Master, the Lord and Savior, 'Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered' (Hebrews 5:8). I suppose that the answer is yes; there must always be pain in this life of travail and sorrow, and there is a purpose in it all."

God help us to understand how we shall develop sometimes through heartache, sorrow, and tears those spiritual qualities except for which none of us can achieve to the place of kinship to Him who suffered more than any of us may understand."

(The teachings of Harold B Lee, pg 188)

## **Lord “permits” suffering**

Harold B Lee

"Sometimes when we see the tragedies that occur in the world we comfort or think to comfort those who mourn by saying that it is the Lord's will. Tragic accidents, and things that are hard to explain, and say it is the Lord's will. Now, I want you to think...and ask your to consider now, is it proper to say by the Lord's will or would it be more correct to say by the Lord's permission? Now you see what a different look it puts on the whole of life." (The teachings of Harold B Lee, pg 187, "The Light of Christ" BYU Institute of Religion 3 February 1962)

## **There is Purpose in Suffering**

Harold B Lee

"I was asked the following question by one who was terminally ill: "Here I am; now the doctors say that this is an incurable malady"—he was just recovering from the second operation, when there was in evidence that there was a rapid

regrowth of that which they were trying to take away—"I've been wondering now whether I should allow all these treatments to prolong life or whether I should resist all such so that I can go quickly." He said to me, "What do you think about that?" And I ask you, if you were ever asked that question by one suffering those intense pains, and you wanted to say, "End it all as quickly as you can," but knowing as he and I knew, we couldn't say that. I said to him, "You and I have been schooled to know that life is a very precious thing and that life here upon this earth has a very important meaning—every minute of it, even the suffering of it, even as the Apostle Paul said about the Master, 'Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered' (Hebrews 5:8)." I said, "How do you and I know but what the suffering you're going through is a refining process by which obedience necessary to exaltation is made up?" That is what the Apostle Paul inferred. I said, "Live it out to the last day. Someone has said living life through to the end is no child's play, but maybe the courage that you manifest right now at this crisis in your family life will be saying to your sweet wife, 'Take courage, my dear, when the darkness comes; the light is not far away,' and to the little ones who are just now growing up, to know that their daddy didn't waver, he didn't flinch in the times of adversity." I said, "But who knows but what the experience you are having now will pay dividends greater than all the rest of your life? Live it true to the end, and we'll bless you and pray that pains beyond your endurance will not be permitted by a merciful God." (The Teachings of Harold B Lee, pg 189)