

Bound to the Mast

The English artist Joseph Turner once invited the clergyman and novelist Charles Kingsley to his studio to see a picture he had just completed of a storm at sea. Filled with admiration, Kingsley inquired, "How did you make it so realistic?"

The artist replied, "When I decided to paint this scene, I thought it would be best to go to the coast of Holland and hire a fisherman to take me out in his boat during an actual storm. I knew this was the only way I could get a feel for my subject. The boatman bound me to the mast so I could watch the squall in safety. I not only observed it and sensed its power, but the tempest blew itself into me until I seemed to become a part of it. When it was over, I was able to depict on canvas all the fury I had felt at sea."



So, too, in life we may acquire some wisdom in times of prosperity, but, oh, the deeper lessons we can learn in the school of hard knocks and tribulation. Experience is a great teacher. We learn the most from what affects us personally.

Remember, too: If you have received consolation from the Lord in times of trouble, God wants you to share with others the lessons you have learned.

God comforts us not to make us comfortable, but to make us comforters.

--Beecher Hunter