

Building Character

A 6-year-old said to his father, "I've decided that I want to be a millionaire when I grow up!" His dad responded, "Well! You'll have to work pretty hard to get a million dollars!" "No I won't! YOU will!" the boy retorted. "Me?" his father asked incredulously. The boy responded, "I just want to inherit it!"

Another story has the boy looking at the food set before him, "What's THIS disgusting slimy blob?" His father answered, "Try it, you'll love it!" The boy clearly aggravated said, "Oh yeah? Well, what if I DON'T love it?" His father responded, "Then, it will bill character." Under his breath the boy said to himself, "That's my dad, always looking out for me!" (both stories from Bill Watterson's "Calvin & Hobbes")

Think what you want, but there is no doubt that building character requires suffering. Some people may be able to obtain things with little effort, but to become what God wants us to be, requires challenges. It requires that we endure challenges so that we can learn from them, grow from them and become more and more like God. Listen to Paul's words:

Romans 5:3-4 *And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope.*

Some people learn perseverance and character and hope faster than others; some never learn it at all! But, for those of us who learn, Paul continues by saying,

Romans 5:5 *Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.*

God has certainly provided a greater inheritance for us than anything we could ever imagine, yet it required great suffering!

Romans 5:6 *For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.*

If Christ suffered for us, what a great blessing it is when we suffer for Him!

Love to all,

Andy