

Elder Reflections – Don Broesamle - March 18, 2026
Strength Amid the Trial

My Lord's tender love for His servant includes His concern for my inward feelings when I am tested, especially to my "limits." He calls me to be of good courage. Even in my doubts and failures God invests in it all – with me. The Lord does not think lightly of my struggles when I am despondent or dispirited. Instead He joins me in my distress, inhabiting the hollow places with me, lifting me in due time, and leading me further along the path of righteousness.

The Lord is a revealing God, displaying His goodness especially in the dark places. If I want to "know God, and be at peace," it must be as He has revealed Himself. I delight in His attributes which describe His essence, but I must also "learn HIM," to rest in His distinct three persons. God said, "Let **us** make man in **our** own image," and it is this "**us**" – who walks with me in the "valley of shadows" – that I am called to understand, on whom I must depend...

It is the **Father** who holds me firmly as His son, with a kiss of love that forgives, a ring to mark His eternal faithfulness, and His table of rejoicing in grace, cup running over.

It is the **Son** who shines with His Father's glory, and yet who with unimaginable humility of grace became man for my sake. I know Him both as my eternal God, and as my suffering, finite Savior. I follow on the water in His footsteps of deity, and sit with Him at the well in the weariness of His humanity. He is my Friend, my Brother, my Sovereign Lord.

It is the **Holy Spirit** who moved over the "*tohu bohu*" and brought order, who now quiets the chaos in my own soul with His holiness. He is the Lord and giver of my spiritual and physical life, my revealing Instructor, my Comforter, the lifter of my head.

To ponder His very being, and to know my triune God like this brings me peace indeed.

And so now the "why" of my continuing toil on this mortal coil, so near to glory – yet so far. It is certainly so that I could gain the fullest of fellowship with Christ, throughout my God-ordained span. Christ was baptized with suffering among men, and so must I be to share in His kingdom. My oneness with Christ is so sweet that earth's sorrows are a small price to pay – and they pay eternal dividends! Heart surrendered and lessons learned slowly equip me for the yet-to-be-discovered "good works" He has prepared – and all fully for His glory. As Spurgeon said, "*God gets His best soldiers from the highlands of affliction.*"

It is for me now to surrender my own longings to the glory of Jesus. My time is fixed and settled by eternal decree. He employs and builds on all that has gone before – none wasted. The man who toils, rejoicing in his God, trusting with all his heart, will have "*good success.*" He who sows in hope shall reap in joy. He will "*be strong, and very courageous.*" Indeed!