

## Timely Wisdom

It is vain to rise too early, or to go too late to rest from anxious toil, because God blesses us - His beloved - while we sleep (Ps 127: 2). So let us rest and then awake from sleep and Christ will give us light (Eph 5: 14). Let us share Christ's sufferings in our own bodies, spirits, minds and hearts that we may share in the peace and joy of His risen glory (Col 1: 24). May our souls be at rest and trust in God, for He alone is our light, our hope, our salvation, and our security (Ps 27: 1; Ps 62: 2-3, 6-9). Let us endure the sufferings that God permits as His discipline, for we are His beloved sons and daughters, and Our Father always disciplines those whom he loves (Heb 12: 7, 6). Even Jesus, the Father's only begotten and beloved Son (Ps 2:-7; Mt 8:12; 17:5; Mk 1:11, 9-7; 2 Pt 1:17), was made perfect and learned obedience from what he suffered (Heb 2:10; 5: 8-9). In order that we may not grow weary or lose heart, consider how Christ endured the suffering, shame and death of the cross (Phil 2: 8; Heb 12: 2). Because Christ has suffered in every way that we do, He is able to sympathize with our weakness and will give us mercy and grace in our times of need (Heb 4:15-16; 2: 18). If God is for us, who - or what - can be against us (Rom 8:31) and who - or what - need we fear (Ps 27:1)? Remember that Jesus already has rescued us from great danger and will continue to do so (2 Cor 1: 10). His grace is sufficient for us, and His power is manifest in our weakness (2 Cor 12: 9). May we even boast of our weaknesses and sufferings, because they yield endurance, tested virtue and a hope that will not disappoint us, because God has poured His love into our hearts through His Holy Spirit (Rom 5: 3-5). Let us stir into flame the gifts that God has given us, and bear our share of hardships for the sake of the Gospel with the strength that comes from God (2 Tim 1: 6, 8). Let us bear our own and each others' burdens, fulfilling Christ's call to love (Gal 5: 2, 5). Christ says that whatever we do to the least of His- and our- brothers and sisters- we do unto Him (Mt 26: 40). Let us remember that we can do all that genuine love- for Him, our neighbors and ourselves- requires, through His strength (Phil 4:13)! Let us compete well, run with perseverance, and finish the race that is set before us (2 Tim: 7; Heb 12: 1). And in spite of all appearances and feelings (Ps 44: 24-25), may we know and trust that our God never sleeps nor slumbers (Ps 12: 3-5)!

P.S. Let us remember that the Lord is with us always (Mt 28:20), and that He is close to us especially in our times of need and distress. When we ask Him, He will come to us and help us (Ps 34: 18-19; 46:2). He will bind up our wounds and heal our broken-hearts (Ps 147:3). He will save us, and all, who are crushed in spirit (Ps 34:18). The Lord offers us fullness of life, holiness, wholeness, unity, strength, peace, joy and the truth that sets us free!