

Dear Shrubs,

Strength to Strength

Thoughts on Psalm 84:7

Bruises cover my soul. Cuts lash my will. The Spirit I own is fatigued
As I travel from Point A of my life to Point Z
I go from assault to assault
But in between, when I strip off my armor
Weakness, ill health and wear show
The times in the middle, between battles, I writhe
Though I appear confident in the public's eye
As I teach, or instruct, or proclaim, or charge
I am often left like a delivered mother
Exhausted from having brought forth, messy
I wrestle with the drain of the pain
I am driven on only by the aftermath of birth
That is, the hope that the ordeal has produced life!
For my love for God, for my heart for His little ones
I have to get up, redress in armor, fight

He has promised me, this is my life
To answer the call when called to His call
Being assured He is with me, empowering me
Though my bones ache, He is my replenishment and splint
As my endurance seems at an end, His cross inspires me
Wounded, He binds bandages that hold me together
He grants victory. Then often, after, I collapse, in private
Til the next enemy or invader appears on the horizon
Whether whole or not, I am called to combat again
Sometimes to fight one handed, or with a limp
Many times to stand when my knees are weak, aching

You, God are with me in the fray, with me when I collapse
Your courts become a M.A.S.H., a Mobile Army Surgical Hospital
You nurse, doctor, visit, admit, discharge
You listen to my groaning, whimpering and moaning
Without judgment and with mercy, you soothe and assure
You alone know when I'm ready to fare the assault again
And I will rise up to engage the enemy once more

One day, recovering with you, when I'm spent, battered
Is better than years of ease without you
Without knowing your mercy, tenderness, purpose and comfort
You are my bright and morning star after dark days
Giving me acceptance and kindness when I'm weary
Sending people and things to return my smile of hope
So I can arise whole, innocent, sound and pure
Jesus, you are Lord over the army of our God
I am made happy, ready to advance

Simply based on the fact I am secure in you!

Love, Brad