

GOD'S LOVE POURED OUT

I was driving down the parkway on a gloomy, cold rainy day, on my way to a meeting to make a go of a new business venture. My spirits were low, and so were my funds. My lucrative high tech projects had run out; I had tried other things but was now losing hope. I had prayed for relief but there was no answer. I felt that God had abandoned me and started to hide from Him. I was not at peace and was tempted to go back to my old ways and trust only to my own devices to regain material wealth.

As I played my Praise CD my Lord began to speak to me in the words that struck me. My tears started to flow as freely as the streaking rain on the windshield.

Even in my darkest hour, I will sing, I will praise. Even though I have not lost my faith, it is hard for me to pray...

The song evoked passages from the Scripture. Trust in me. I am with you always. (Mt 28:20) My heart was heavy, but as I began to sing along, I felt God's reassurance. I praised the Holy Spirit for the gift of tears and thanked my Lord for all His mercy and forgiveness. ***"The love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the holy Spirit that has been given to us."*** (Rom 5:5)

I have learned to face pain and suffering with resignation. *Have your way*, the song from that afternoon goes. As I face my life's afflictions, I am yet ready to boast in His glory. "Affliction produces endurance, and endurance, proven character, and proven character, hope." (Rom 5: 3-4) Through my trials, my Maker is molding me, shaping my character and giving me endurance so that my hope in Him will increase. In His own time and according to His will, He will grant me what I pray for.

The lyrics, *I will put my trust in you knowing that you died to set me free*, bring me to His Word: "Since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access (by faith) to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in hope of the glory of God." (Rom 1-2)

In my darkest hour, God has reminded me that He has poured out His love for me. He has restored my peace thru His graces. I belong to Him, and there is no turning back from my Lord.