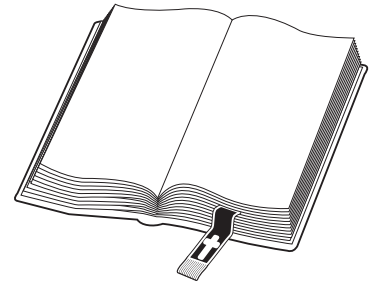


# Maturing or Perishing in My Afflictions

*“Unless Your law had been my delight, I would  
then have perished in my affliction.”* Psalm 119:92



## Number 35 in the series “The Joy of Obeying God’s Word”

Beloved, as long as we live in this sin-filled world, we will have afflictions. Some afflictions are the result of sin done against us; some are the consequences of our own sinful choices. Again, we live in a world full of sin, sickness, and disease. Afflictions come into every life. Some we have no control over, and we cannot change.

However, as believers, by GOD’S AMAZING GRACE and the power of the Holy Spirit, if we will daily read God’s Word and apply its truths to every situation in our lives, we will experience changed lives. We will mature in and through our afflictions. We will see our trust and faith in Christ grow daily.

I was constantly afflicted physically and emotionally as a result of the memories of my abusive childhood. Fears and insecurities that paralyzed me were a constant affliction in my life. The bitterness, anger, and unforgiveness were like a *terminal cancer*. It spread through my body and soul, destroying every aspect of my life and family. I was as mentally and emotionally *crippled* as a person in a wheelchair. As I obeyed the Bible and forgave as Christ forgave me, I was amazed at the results. *Forgiveness was more powerful than radiation, chemotherapy, or any medication*. Then through repentance Jesus delivered me of perishing in the affliction of guilt and shame as the consequence of my sins, including an abortion that I’d had.

For many years I felt that I was perishing in the afflictions of debt, constantly struggling to pay bills. Obedience to God’s Word set my husband and me free. We paid off our mortgage years ago, and by God’s grace we now have no debt. 2 Corinthians 5:17 reads, *“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”*

Beloved, I love God’s Word. It is my *delight*. It has made me a new creation in Christ. Most of all, I love Jesus Christ and my relationship with Him. I know that as long as I live, afflictions in one form or another will be in my life. I also know from personal experience that I do not have to perish in them. If I follow Jesus’ example and obey His Word, I will mature in my faith and be conformed into His image. I have an international speaking and teaching ministry now as a result of all of my afflictions.

How about you? Are you perishing or maturing in your afflictions? Jesus wants to mature you in and through your pain. You need to apply God’s Word to every situation in your life. Believe me, you do not have to perish in your afflictions. You can be matured in and through them, and your life will glorify Jesus Christ.

— *Janice McBride*

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*All scripture is taken from the New King James Version of the Bible.*

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