



## **TURNING YOUR SCARS TO STARS**

**Adegboyega Adejobi**

***“After Jesus had finished instructing His twelve disciples, He went on from there to teach and preach in the towns of Galilee. When John heard in prison what Christ was doing, He sent His disciples to ask him, “Are you the one who was to come, or should we expect someone else?” Jesus replied, “Go back and report to John what you hear and see: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is preached to the poor. Blessed is the man who does not fall away on account of me.” As John’s disciples were leaving, Jesus began to speak to the crowd about John: “What did you go out into the desert to see? A reed swayed by the wind? If not, what did you go out to see? A man dressed in fine clothes? No, those who wear fine clothes are in kings’ palaces. Then what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written: ‘I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.’ I tell you the truth: Among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven has been forcefully advancing, and forceful men lay hold of it. For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John. And if you are willing to accept it, he is the Elijah who was to come. He, who has ears, let him hear.” – Matthew 11: 1-15***

A scar is a mark left on the skin by a wound. A scar can also be a feeling of great sadness or guilt after an unpleasant experience. A star however, is a distant point of light in the sky or a shining object with five or six points used as a mark of excellence. Whereas, everybody loves to be decorated with a star, nobody likes to have a scar though quite often, scars are unavoidable. Whatever we do, we are bound to sustain some injuries at certain times in life. These wounds leave scars behind long after they've been healed. It is therefore very important, that we all learn how to turn our scars to stars. If we are going to turn our scars to stars, we must first of all appreciate the sources of these scars. Some of the common sources of scars are:

- 1. Tribulation and persecution.**
- 2. Chastisement.**
- 3. Offence and**
- 4. Sin.**

The Lord Jesus Christ said, ***“In this world you will have trouble (tribulation). But take heart! I have overcome the world”***. There are those times when we suffer not for wrongdoing but because of our faith in Christ. The Scripture is rife with several cases of men who suffered for taking righteous stand for God. Joseph, for example was imprisoned because he feared God and would not yield to the seductions of the wife of his master; Portiphar. His young and innocent heart was wounded. The Lord Jesus Christ Himself knew no sin yet men accused him falsely and crucified him on the cross at Calvary. Stephen also, a disciple of Jesus Christ was stoned to death because he dared to preach Christ to the then power that be. They were all wounded and their wounds left scars on them. Jesus even showed His own scar to doubting Thomas when He visited His disciples the second time after He rose from the dead.

If we must turn such scars to stars, we must learn how not to complain while the suffering lasts. Instead, as good soldiers of Christ we must learn how to endure hardship and withstand the pressure of difficult times. This was Apostle Paul's admonition in 2Timothy 2:3. Enduring hardship is the first step in turning your scars to stars. Brother James also said the same thing, ***“Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything”(James 1: 2-4)***. Apostle Peter corroborated this when he said, ***“But rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed. If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you”*** This is a mystery. Or isn't it a mystery that we are blessed when we suffer for Christ joyfully and don't complain or grumble? God surely knows that's not easy and that's why He rewards and honours us if we do. Whatever you may be passing through therefore brother, simply count it all joy! Don't choose otherwise.

We ought to endure chastisement also. There are times when we suffer for our naughtiness and not for righteousness sake. We surely have our choices at such times too, to submit to discipline or not but we can only turn our scars to stars as we humbly yield to godly discipline. King Solomon said, ***“My son, do not despise the Lord’s discipline and do not resent his rebuke, because the LORD disciplines those he loves, as a father the son he delights in. Blessed is the man who finds wisdom, the man who gains understanding, for she is more profitable than silver and yields better returns than gold. She is more precious than rubies; nothing you desire can compare with her. Long life is in her right hand; in her left hand are riches and honour. Her ways are pleasant ways, and all her paths are peace. She is a tree of life to those who embrace her; those who lay hold of her will be blessed (Proverbs 3: 11-18).***

Every good parent spares nothing at child discipline and Proverbs 29: 15 says, ***“The rod of correction imparts wisdom, but a child left to himself disgraces his mother”***. According to Proverbs 13: 24, ***“He who spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him is careful to discipline him”***. God is a good Father who disciplines His children often times. We would come out shining as stars if we take to such parental discipline as they are in themselves a form of training. According to Apostle Paul in 1Corinthians 11:32, ***“...we are being disciplined so that we will not be condemned with the world.*** When God disciplines us, He is simply treating us as children. Only bastards and not true sons are left without discipline. Such disciplines are not pleasant while they last. They are for our good anyway and eventually help to produce the fruits of righteousness and peace. Let us learn to endure discipline.

Scars also arise from offences. These offences come through people, people who treat us badly and injure our heart in the process. We must learn how to forgive these people if we must turn our stars to scars. For us to receive God’s forgiveness, we must forgive those who have sinned against us. Forgiveness could be tough most of the times but if we appreciate the fact that we step on other people’s toes too as others step on our toes, it would not be too difficult for us to forgive. Overlooking the wrongs of others therefore is one major key to lasting peace. We must emulate our Lord Jesus Christ who while hanging on the cross still remembered to pray for forgiveness of sin for His persecutors. Had the Lord not said that prayer, the entire humanity would have been guilty of His blood and damned as a result. Stephen also, prayed that the Lord should not lay the sins of his killers to their charge. When we do not seek revenge but rather allow the Lord to have His way, we are on our way to turning our scars to shining stars. Then, the Lord Himself who has promised to avenge on our behalf would turn around our situation for our blessing and His glory.

The worst source of scars is sin. Certain sins still leave scars on us long after we have confessed them and we have been forgiven by God. Such scars are painful reminders of our rebellious past that get us disturbed and troubled most of the times. There are many examples of this in scripture. Although, Rahab was

forgiven and adopted as a Jew yet, the title of a harlot over the years had stuck to her permanently. So was the adultery of king David, the denial of Peter and also the sin of the two thieves that were crucified with the Lord Jesus Christ on the cross at Calvary. Although, they were all forgiven yet there is permanent record and mention of their sins in the scripture. The only way such people can turn their scars to stars is to forgive themselves after receiving God's forgiveness. If you find yourself in this type of situation whereby the enemy keeps reminding you of your past sins to buffet and harass you, you would need to renew your mind with the word of God and hold unto it as your life-line. It is as you do this that you receive the assurance of God's forgiveness and you are able to forgive yourself.