

2 Corinthians 4:17

You see, the short-lived pains of this life are creating for us an eternal glory that does not compare to anything we know here.

I think once upon a time I quite unconsciously didn't believe this verse. My fears about what I might have to go through in this life were at such a level that I clearly didn't fully believe (with anything more than my head) that Heaven would make up for what I might face.

I'm learning better now. I'm Learning that it's not some titan strength of courageous faith that is needed to grasp this verse. No, it's nothing more than a sublimely simple and beautiful common sense that comes to us quite naturally when we finally choose to believe that God is telling us the truth – when we choose to take Him at His word.

This verse doesn't put a limit to how much trouble and pain we can experience before it ceases to be true. It doesn't indicate that the glory that is coming to us is vastly greater than just the smaller, more mundane troubles. No, the glory we will experience vastly outweighs anything we could ever face here. Throughout the history of man are sprinkled stories of troubles that cover the gamut from daily monotonies to horrors that cause the mind to shy away in terror, coming upon lovers of God. And yet nothing this world and its evil can throw at us will ever hold a candle to what our Father has prepared for us. Can we grasp that? Can we look at our greatest fears, and with trust that our God tells the truth, look past them knowing they will be like one drop of bitterness swallowed into an ocean of sweetness and joy?

As a side note, I think we will not only be healed from all our earthly pains and griefs when we get Home, but we'll also have to be strengthened and made capable of receiving the joys that await us. We will *have* to be remade. These earthly bodies couldn't hold up under the glories to come, under the continuous waves of ecstatic joy. Here we need strength for our trials. There we will need strength for our joys.