

In those innocent days of our youth, the word *snowflakes* brought to mind glistening, pure white, perfect, delicate, unique forms of God's creative hand. They tickled our outstretched tongues and kissed our cheeks and chins with cool delight. They drifted softly and silently from above to form a white blanket of solitude below -- creating a calm and beauty like no other.

Like so many words these days, something of great beauty and purity has been hijacked to describe the pathetic, perverted, and profane. The term *snowflakes* today marks intellectual paupers who flee to *safe spaces* to shield their indefensible ideas from challenge and to stroke their fragile egos. They cannot cope with anything to disturb their fanciful reality.

All too often, this happens in colleges and universities charged to educate, broaden thought processes, and espouse excellence. Today, these incubators of idiots seek to indoctrinate students, stifle creativity, and affirm the student rather than outstanding academic achievement.

When circumstances of life throw them a curve, snowflakes have no recourse. They either vent in profane temper tantrums or wither and melt with diversions like coloring books or play dough. Sad indeed is the lot of these emotional children.

What do you do when life throws you a curve? Do you turn to social media and display to the world your lack of vocabulary and your immaturity? As Christians, we need never descend into the pit of despair despite our circumstances. The Apostle Paul, suffered greatly -- sustaining beatings, imprisonment, and shipwreck. Despite these challenges, he gave thanks to God and said that "whatsoever state I am in, therewith to be content."

But how can we thank God for evil or even loss in our lives? There is a way. Job knew it as he thanked God in the face of losing nearly everything. The key is to keep our eye on eternity and God's higher purposes. Our stay in this mortal body is fleeting:

*For our light affliction, which is **but for a moment**, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal. (2 Corinthians 4:17-18)*

With right perspective and the power of God's Spirit within us, we can win the victory over any hardship. Soon, we who know the Lord will live with Him in glory. We will see His hair and clothing -- white and radiant. We will see the brilliant white light of His glory filling heaven. We will witness a purity far greater than a new-fallen snow.

The truth is, we need never be held captive by circumstances. Our loving heavenly Father knows our every struggle and sorrow. He is with us always. He goes with us through each storm. And He loves us with a love far greater than we can fathom.

Christmas is all about God's love. *For God so **loved** the world that He **gave** His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life (John 3:16).* What a gift. What a promise! While we may not be able always to give thanks for difficult times, we can always give thanks for our God and His great Gift to us.

Merry Christmas!  
Ron and Betsy