

CouplesInBloom.com – Bruises Of Blessing

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One *rarely talked about* aspect of God's **blessing** is its **bruises**. The *outcome* of blessing *is* positive, but the *process* of blessing always has a cost... ranging anywhere from inconvenience to torture. Using the "Christian" label, *popular false teachings* **exclude** the *authenticating personal cost of Biblical Christianity*, thus make themselves "another gospel" among many other heresies ⇒ 2 Corinthians 11:3-4. God waits for His right time before revealing these lies as accursed ⇒ Galatians 1:6-9; Matthew 13:24-30.

Bruises of blessing have two types: 1) **bruises from cost** and 2) **bruises from idolatry**. Which bruise do you have? The word bruise in the Bible means to crumble, break into pieces, humble, contrite. We can see *why* humanity *without* spiritual revelation *would* avoid such a cost. However, everyone who responds to God's invitation for intimacy receives spiritual eyes to see beyond this cost on to God's immeasurably greater reward.

1) **Bruises from cost**: Isaiah 53:10-11 ⇒ Yet it **pleased the LORD to bruise Him**; He has put Him to grief: that He shall make His soul an offering for sin, He shall see His seed, He shall prolong His days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in His hand. He shall see of the travail of His soul, and shall be satisfied: by His knowledge shall My righteous servant justify many; for He shall bear their iniquities. *The outcome is pleasure.*

Bruises from cost are about temporary personal loss resulting in someone else's gain. Jesus did this for us and Christians (followers of Christ, by definition ⇒ Acts 11:26) do this for others. Just as with Jesus, doing so invites persecution / **bruises**. It is a small price to pay in lieu of eternal life in Heaven, even if the persecution lasts a lifetime on earth. God makes sure the trial stays bearable ⇒ 1 Corinthians 10:13, as martyrs have proven.

Bruises from cost are not about endorsing harm to self or others, but rather about trusting God to the point of... anything. The way this becomes do-able includes realizing God **is** everything; making the cost of trust relatively meaningless ⇒ Romans 8:35-39. Reciprocating the honor of God's love over our cost **of** that **is** *authenticated Christianity*.

2) **Bruises from idolatry** are about idolizing temporary personal gain resulting in loss of everything permanently ⇒ Matthew 16:24-27. Unlike bruises from cost, bruises from idolatry do not feel bad at all at first, but **are** bad in the big picture / long run... **and** are precisely what false teachings teach. Their sensuality sells well; only to kill later. Hence God clearly separates Biblical Christianity from false 'Christian' teaching in Proverbs 27:6 ⇒ **Faithful are the wounds of a friend**; but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful.

Bruises from idolatry additionally worsen for the spiritually lazy. Political correctness is one example because: sin is offended by truth. The spiritual weakling is easily bruised by the reliable standard of truth; wanting everything all soft and fluffy. This feels good until the storms of life come and a strong tower is needed... fast! ⇒ Proverbs 18:10 and Psalms 59; 61; 62; 71. **Then** the Christian's telephone rings from a desperate God-hater, which is fine because the God-lover is happy to get **bruises from the cost** to bless the lost.

Note for marrieds: use the opportunities to bless your spouse because that's what God does with you, His Bride of Christ. God will repay all your costly **Bruises Of Blessing**. ♥