When God gives you promises of glorious blessings in the future, you must also understand that trials often precede those blessings. If the Lord promises to cover you, protect you, and deliver you, it usually means you may first go through deep valleys, painful losses, or seasons where it feels like He is absent.

We all love comfort—especially the comfort that comes from God—but the reality is this: you cannot be comforted unless you first go through discouragement, sorrow, or affliction. This is why true comfort is powerful. As Paul writes:

> *“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.”*
> *(2 Corinthians 1:3–4)*

The Pattern of Trials Before Blessing

When God says, “I will be with you, I will bless you, I will lift you up, and I will deliver you,” those promises are precious—but they also imply a journey through hardship. Before the lifting up comes

the humbling. Before the deliverance comes the imprisonment. Before the joy comes the sorrow. Otherwise, salvation would not be salvation—because salvation presupposes something lost.

There is no deliverance without being trapped first, no comfort without sorrow, no exaltation without first being brought low.

Abraham: The Cost of Obedience
Abraham was told, “I will make you into a great nation” (Genesis 12:2). But before he received that promise, he had to lose his homeland, his relatives, and all that was familiar.

The book of Hebrews says:

> *“By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country…”*
> *(Hebrews 11:8–9)*

To gain a heavenly citizenship, he had to surrender his earthly

one. The blessing was real, but the cost was heavy.

Joseph: Glory Through Shame

Joseph was shown a vision that his brothers would one day bow before him (Genesis 37:5–9). He might have thought the fulfillment would come easily. Instead, he was betrayed, enslaved, falsely accused of sexual immorality, and imprisoned in Egypt.

> *Only after being “brought low” did God lift him to Pharaoh’s right hand. His story reminds us: “Humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time.” (1 Peter 5:6)*

Moses: From Palace to Wilderness

Before Moses became “as God to Pharaoh” (Exodus 7:1), he had to abandon the riches of Egypt.

> *“By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter, choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing*

> *pleasures of sin.”*
> *(Hebrews 11:24–25)*

For forty years he lived in the desert, being humbled, before God entrusted him with the leadership of Israel.

Following Christ: The Ultimate Cost
Jesus Himself warned that discipleship comes at a price:

> *“Then Peter answered and said to Him, ‘See, we have left all and followed You. Therefore what shall we have?’ So Jesus said to them… everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My name’s sake, shall receive a hundredfold, and inherit eternal life.”*
> *(Matthew 19:27–29)*

To follow Christ is to deny yourself (Luke 9:23)—leaving behind sin, ungodly relationships, dishonest business, or any lifestyle that displeases Him. These sacrifices may bring short-term hardship, but the promise of Christ is eternal: a hundredfold

reward and eternal life.

Theological Reflection

God’s priority is not to make us wealthy but to make us holy. His aim is first to save our souls from eternal death before granting temporal blessings. As Paul reminds us:

> *“For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory.” (2 Corinthians 4:17)*

Some blessings may come quickly; others may take years, even decades. But the timing belongs to God, who knows what will shape us best.

Conclusion

If you desire the blessing of Christ, be ready to embrace the cost. Surrender sin, endure trials, and trust in His refining process. The Lord who humbled Abraham, Joseph, and Moses is the same God who will lift you up in due time—if you remain faithful.

> *“For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.”*
> *(Romans 8:18)*

Maranatha! The Lord is coming soon.

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