

Joan Porter Thomas

Professor Constance L. Diggs

PMN 346 Personal Spiritual Formation (NA)

February 3, 2023

Discipline Article and Reflection

The thing that is present for me, "Is how do I still love God even in our pain". Many people are asking the question, where is God and if he is real, why isn't he doing anything about all the bad things that are happening, even to those who proclaim to be His children?. In the midst of our own pain, it is hard enough to bear our own pain, and at the same time, have an obligation to show to the world that we have an all powerful Father who knows everything and can do all things. This takes us to Job, in his suffering, I had the knowledge and faith that, even though he did not really understand what was happening to him and his friends were accusing him that he did something wrong. His faith held strong. He says, "I know that my redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand on the earth, And after my skin has been destroyed. Yet in my flesh I will see God...." (Job 19: 25-27)

Like Jobs friends we tend to do a self-assessment when things that we do not understand start happening to us. I learn from the lesson that "suffering is a product of "The Fall", because of it, sin came into the world. I learn the purpose of Jesus' suffering and that is to show us how to react to it and who to go to when we suffer and how go to Him. The lesson teaches us, that we do not have to make pretty prayers, but tell Him what we need and how we feel, in our own way. I learn the "Theology of Power.", It is to take on God's strength, and that we can take comfort in His promises, as states in (Revelation 21:4, and Isaiah 11: 6-9). Even during the suffering Jesus and Job express confidence in the love and concern of the Heavenly Father. (John 11:41-42) and (Job 19: 25-27). The lesson has brought new meaning to (John 11: 41-42). Job and Jesus, while they were going through, they could not feel God's presence, but they knew He was there. Job says "Oh if I could find Him! That I might come

even to His seat” (Job 23:3) and Jesus said “My God, My God, why hath thou forsaken me?” (Mathew 27:46). David did the same in (Psalm 22.)

My approach to the discipline going forward is learning to stand still, by employing the Power of Prayer and inward prayer (Meditation on God’s word). Ask ourselves, what does he say about what is happening to us? How would Jesus deal with it? I am learning to tap into His strength. (2 Corinthians 12:9) says, “And he said unto me, my grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me”. A testimony is a reminder of what God can do for us, if we do not have trials, then we cannot have a testimony” “If I never had a problem, I would not know God could solve them”. We can always speak of other’s testimony, which will strengthen us a little, but nothing compares to our own experience. I am Learning to stand firm and see the salvation of the Lord.