



A light to my path. Psalm 119:105

The Anguish

The darkness of night engulfed the streets as Jesus and his eleven disciples walked to the Garden of Gethsemane. The betrayer, Judas Iscariot, had gone to the chief priest's office. Twelve men entered the garden. Jesus selected Peter, James, and John, telling the others to stay and pray to support him in the agony that lay before him. Farther into the garden, Jesus told Peter, James, and John, "My mind is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and watch and pray for me." (Matthew 26:38, NKJV)

Jesus went a short distance and knelt in prayer. His purpose was close at hand. Anguish gripped his humanity like a vise tightening on a piece of wood. He and his Father, being one, had never separated. His Father would fill him with all the sins of humanity, then turn away as He punished him, His son, for those sins. All humanity had sinned and fallen short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23). Sin required payment!

So great was his love and his Father's love for humanity that he must bear it to save all of them from Satan's torments. Could he do it? The thought of separation bore down on his humanity with a stress-filled force that caused his body to exert excessive adrenaline and cortisol. He fought against rejecting his purpose.

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The struggle ruptured capillaries in his body and drops of blood covered his forehead, ran down to his chin, dropping onto the ground. A short distance away, Peter, James, and John slept, failing to pray. Jesus cried aloud, “Father, if it is Your will, take this cup from me; let it not be my will, but Yours, be done.” (Luke 22:42-43)

Beloved, we need not suffer anguish. Jesus did it for us! Therefore, we have his strength, comfort, rest, and peace to endure whatever may trouble us (Philippians 4:13). Beloved, we need not suffer anguish. Jesus did it for us! Therefore, we have his strength, comfort, rest, and peace to endure whatever may trouble us (Philippians 4:13).
Shalom!!

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