

Embrace Low Moments
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“Let us therefore brace ourselves to our duties, and so bear ourselves that, if the British Empire and its Commonwealth last for a thousand years, men will still say: ‘This was their finest hour.’”

Churchill inspired the Allies to embrace the horrendous low point of WW2 by telling his people that years later this lowest point will be seen as the highest point of England’s resolve. I often give a similar speech in premarital counseling. It will be the toughest times that will illuminate and form a couple’s love for each other.

Churchill’s speech is brilliant because normally we think of wonderful and peaceful moments as ‘finest hours,’ not suffering and death. Churchill borrowed the idea from Jesus. In John chapter 12, Jesus declares, “the hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.” He wasn’t talking about the resurrection. He was describing His suffering and dying on the cross.

To glorify something means to shine a light on that thing in order to magnify its beauty for all to see. What is more illuminating of God’s love for sinners than His Son on a cross? God will go to the end of the world to find you. He will lay down His life to save you. Jesus on the cross should remove any doubt of His commitment to you.

Our lives are the same. God’s love for us shines brightest in our lowest moments! It’s when we realize the depth of our sin that we truly get God’s complete forgiveness. It’s when we are faced with our mortality that we see the gift of resurrection and hope. For Christians too, suffering is our finest hour. We live in a world that ignorantly encourages people to pursue happiness and avoid suffering. That’s weak and impossible. But we can embrace suffering, learn from it, because we stand with a suffering God and we know one day we will not suffer!

I pray you see the glory of God this week as we examine our own lives and see His mercy.