

DEVOTION:

How Are You?

When you ask a Russian, "How are you?" the normal answer is, "Nothing." It means that nothing is wrong at the moment. To say "fantastic" would be tempting fate.

We can identify with this sentiment. When everything goes well, we are content and feel that life makes sense. We hope that it will last! How are you? "Nothing is bothering me at the moment, thank you!"

People who confess God's involvement in their lives regularly reflect on a very important question: "What is God's will for my life?" We almost never ask this when everything is fine. To Paul, however, times of hardship are times of growth.

The thorns in our flesh, the things that make life difficult, the struggles and setbacks obtain new meaning when we hold them against the light of God's grace.

These are the times when our faith in God grows, and trust in ourselves decreases. These are the times when we see God's saving power at work in our weakness.

"How are you?" "In the school of God's grace, thank you!"