

SUFFERING POWER

Trial and tragedy, trouble and pain,
Hopes that are dashed amid dreams that are slain:
All of these pepper the world where you dwell,
Trying to make it a little like Hell.

Satan will threaten, and demons will swarm,
Yet I am with you in tempest and storm.
I tell you now, so your heart may have peace
Making your home in My Spirit's release.

Gladly take heart in the Gospel you've heard.
Others have suffered who knew not My Word.
Others are hurting who know Me not now.
You bear a cross that can reach them somehow.

Yes, there is darkness, disease, and despair
Marring My beautiful world everywhere.
That's why I came, to connect with each loss
By the embrace of the sin-laden Cross.

Take heart in that Cross: I have conquered the foe!
Follow My steps into Golgotha's woe.
Take up the troubles and trials you face—
Drown them in love by the strength of My grace!

— *David L. Hatton, 3/27/2001*