

or to deliver us.

One time I was going down the side of a cliff in the Grand Canyon, down in the Cataract Canyon, and there was a place there you had to go with considerable care, to put your foot here and here, and take ahold here, and I just reached my hand to take ahold here, and bzzzzzz I heard the rattlesnake going. This was just a little one, but it/s poison was just as much.....3½... .. my hand was just about there, and I pulled it back, and reached over and took hold of another place. I think that comes under this heading. I took ~~xxxxxxx~~ up a serpent, but God protected me. God protected me from being injured by it. Everyone has to taste these things in life, but God may have a meaning for our chastening. He may have a meaning for our witnessing to Him. We want to face them with our eyes on Him.

I spoke to you not so long ago about knowing the fellowship of His suffering, and I think that ~~xxxxx~~ relates very closely to this verse, the fellowship of His suffering. All of a sudden, when you never expected it, you never dream of it you have got a serpent in your hand. You are in a difficulty, in a puzzle, and you don't know what the answer is, you don't know whether you are going to come through it safely. God wants to teach us to know the fellowship of His sufferings. He wants to teach us to look at the difficulties and keep sweet right through them. He wants us to look at the difficulties, and not have it bring any bitterness into our soul, but have us even love those who ~~xxx~~ might perhaps be the ....5.... of bringing the difficulties to us. He wants us to love them in the Lord. He wants us to love all who are truly His. He wants us to learn from these experiences the fellowship of His suffering, and in a way that is almost more important to Him, when we learn that lesson, than whether we survive through the particular experiences, or what happens to us in the end, that we have that step forward in our sanctification, to learn to know the fellowship of His sufferings, and to keep the spirit that we have. The spirit of love, of tenderness, of sympathy, of representing in our lives and in our attitudes the love of the Lord Jesus Christ. We all have to meet these situations. We all have to take up serpents.