

When Experience may be Wrong

'Experience cannot be allowed to have the final word - it must be judged and shown up as deceptive and misleading. The theology of the Cross draws our attention to the sheer unreliability of experience as the guide to the presence and activity of God. God is active and present in His word quite independently of whether we experience Him as being so. Experience declared that God was absent from Calvary, only to have its verdict humiliatingly overturned on the third day.' As with the cross, our darkest hour may be God's finest moment. It may be there that he does his greatest work - albeit unseen to us. Thus instead of letting circumstances consume us, we are to be consumed with God. To that end, we pray without ceasing, trust in His sovereignty and find comfort in His hope."

From "When God Doesn't Heal," Mark Yarbrough in CT, Sept. 2004

"The words of Alister McGrath in *Mystery of the Cross* (Zondervan, 1990) are well posed: