

Although Jesus knew in advance that He would be dying for the sins of the world, He did not know by experience that the death agony would be so excruciating and so prolonged! And He did not know by experience that the Father's deliverance would be so long in coming!

If you have ever suffered severe pain for an extended period of time, or come in contact with other persons experiencing continuous suffering, perhaps you can feel something of what our Savior felt. In the midst of great pain time seems to slow down, and every minute becomes an hour, and every hour a day. Days seem to drag along wearily, and nights seem unending. And the suffering continues, until we feel that just coping uses up all of our strength!

Our Lord must have experienced at least some of these feelings on the cross during the six hours that He hung with spikes through His hands and feet. During this time the muscles surrounding His chest cavity became more and more rigid, making it increasingly difficult to exhale, and thus He experienced severe cramps and asphyxia, ending finally in complete suffocation.

Though during this terrible time the Lord Jesus saw the Father as far from helping Him, far from delivering Him, far from relieving His distress and groanings, yet He did not waver in faith, even though humanly speaking He did not understand why the Father delayed His deliverance from suffering