

The Messenger



“... How beautiful are the feet of those who bring glad tidings of good things!” Romans 10:15

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Trusting in the Lord

by Gale Conway

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At the congregation of the Lord's people that meets at Westlake in Wentzville, MO, the elders recently instituted a study on several specific Psalms. Some of the men of the congregation were asked to present lessons and my husband, Bill, was given the 23rd Psalm – Trust in the Lord.

We discussed how trusting in the Lord has seen us through many difficult times in our lives as His children. Putting our confidence in God shows we have complete and genuine trust that he will take care of us. (Psa. 1:1-3; 4:1, 18:1-3; 25:1-2; 26:1-2; 27:1; 31:1; 14; 19; 119:33-35).

Several years back, Bill was diagnosed with prostate cancer. We prayed that God would see us through it. During the pre-testing to determine if surgery was feasible, it was discovered he'd suffered a silent heart attack a year or two before. (God saw us through a difficult situation we weren't even aware had occurred.)

Surgery was definitely out of the question so the oncologist and Bill opted for radiation treatments. When they were completed, he was deemed cancer-free and has been so since. We must trust in God as Noah did (Heb. 11:7), as Abraham did (Heb. 11:8-10) and so many others in the Old Testament scriptures. Mal. 3:6 says God never changes.

Our faith rests on God's power (I Cor. 2:5); He showers us with spiritual blessings (Eph. 1:3-4) through his Son (Eph. 2:4-7). There is only ONE way – God's way (Eph. 4:4-6), and we must strive daily to do the will of God (Phil. 3:8-14). Only then will our trust and faith give us the power to grow and fight the sins of the world.

As we grow older, we have learned that trusting in God means we do not worry – wondering how things will turn out. The ladies at Westlake had a study on the book of Philippians recently. The one verse that always comes to mind is 4:13 – “I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.” Devotion to daily Bible study is an enhancement of our faith and trust in God. This is an important part of our daily lives and we should make certain that we are learning and growing as we should – regardless of our age (II Tim. 3:16-17).

May God continue to bless and watch over His children.



Shaped for Glory

Bulletin Digest

During the Great Depression a good man lost his job, exhausted his savings, and forfeited his home. His grief was multiplied by the sudden death of his precious wife. The only thing he had left was his faith and it was weakening.

One day he was combing the neighborhood looking for work. He stopped to watch some men who were doing the stonework on a church building. One of those men was skillfully chiseling a triangular piece of rock. Not seeing a spot where it would fit, he asked, “Where are you going to put that?” The man pointed to the top of the building and said, “See that little opening up there near the spire? That’s where it goes. I’m shaping it down here so it will fit up there.”

Tears filled this good man’s eyes as he walked away. Those words resonated with him: “Shaping it down here so it will fit up there.” He found new meaning in his difficult situation.

Some of you may be going through terrible troublesome times. You may be experiencing some heartbreaking sorrow. Or perhaps you are enduring some painful physical illness. Or it may be something else – maybe even too excruciating to talk to anyone about. The blows of the hammer and chisel hurt.

But hold to your faith. Don’t let your difficulties get you down. They are only temporary. Glory is coming. It’s the harsh blows to the outward man that often brings the greatest strength to the inner man. Keep praying. Keep believing.

The Master has to do some shaping down here so we will fit up there.

News and Notes:

Remember to check the prayer list for those with ongoing spiritual weaknesses and physical illnesses.

“...Pray for one another...The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.”
James 5:16