

The Joy of Suffering

We all experience pain, and we suffer. And, it does not matter how old we are, whether we are a man or a woman, everyone goes through something. For some, it may be a form of mental or emotional trauma; for others, it may be physical. As we age, the aches and pains will no doubt become more frequent. It is in these moments that I have wondered if we have ever asked ourselves the question: *"If not me, then who?"*

Most of us would not wish our ills upon another person, even if that other individual is someone we disagree with or with whom there is "bad blood." To use a common phrase: *"I would not wish (insert suffering) on my worst enemy."* Why is this the case? I believe it is because deep down, we have a modicum of compassion that says, *"While I do not wish to suffer, I do not want anyone else to suffer on my behalf."*

Suffering is a part of being human, and philosophers have said that, without suffering, you would not know that you were alive. So, for a moment, let us shift our perspective of affliction and look to where we may find joy.

James writes, *"Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing"* (Jas. 1:2-4).

When we examine the verse above, we notice that the trials we endure intend to test our faith. A companion text for this is 2 Cor. 13:5. There, Paul says, *"Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith; examine yourselves! Or do you not recognize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you—unless indeed you fail the test?"* We might rightly substitute the word "test" for "prove."

It will take mental effort, but when we are in the midst of our pain, we should pause for a moment and ask, *"Where is my faith?"* The trials we experience – mental, emotional, physical – partly *prove* our faith and produce patience (endurance). If we do not find ourselves resting in God during these times, *"...do you not recognize that Jesus Christ is in you?"* If not, then you may have failed the test!

We find our joy in suffering by knowing that all trials intend to bring us closer to the Lord. They may not appear that way in the midst of them, which is why it is critical to stop, pray, and draw close to God. Perhaps the reason YOU are going through whatever the affliction it is that someone else may not be able to handle it. If not you, then who?

Love powerfully,

Live purposefully, and

Leave the rest up to God.



Upcoming ladies' events

What: Ladies' day (Hope in the Lord)
When: October 9, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Where: New Road church of Christ
Waco, Texas

What: Ladies' day (Seasons of Life
Ecclesiastes 3:4)
When: October 16, 9:00 a.m.—1:30 p.m.
Where: Killeen church of Christ



If interested in going to any of these events, let's get together and carpool. Also, if going, we need to register.



Next pickup: December 21

Teachable lesson: Have your young child bring a food item each Sunday and place in box.

Lesson learned: Give to those in need



to EVERYONE who donated to Christ's Haven this quarter. Nine tubs of items were picked up this week. The gentleman was amazed that we had so much for a congregation so small. WAY TO GO, FREETOWN!



October 6—Tammi King
October 7—Dan Weber
October 7—Tennessee Liebowitz



Ladies' Bible Workers

October 5 @ 9:30 a.m.—11:30 a.m. (Cards,
Bible study, Mission Printing)

Led by: Nancy Smith

Prayer Requests & Concerns

Edith White fell and broke her femur. She had surgery and is now in rehab at MCA where she will begin therapy. Keep Edith in your prayers as she goes through this therapy. Also keep her caretakers in your prayers (Barbara and Bill Tillman and Gary White).

Jerry Hand, Vernon Hand's brother, was involved in an accident at home when a riding lawnmower turned over on top of him. He has some broken ribs, broken collar bone, cuts and deep bruising. He also has some brain trauma that they are monitoring. Please keep Jerry and the Hand family in your prayers.

Gary Gough is having tests run to try to figure out what is causing a pain in his side. At this time, they are waiting on lab results. Please keep him in your prayers for answers and solutions.

Israel Esparza was involved in a read-end collision. He is currently experiencing neck and back pain. Pray for relief of these issues.

Lance Jordan is now dealing with the flu. Pray for his healing and that his other and Sharon do not get it. Lance's mother, Belvie, has been diagnosed with Covid. She is 98 and has serious breathing issues. Pray she will not have a tough bout of this virus. She did have the vaccines. Keep all of the Jordans in your prayers.

Keep the following families who have lost loved ones in your prayers for peace and comfort:



- * Tommy and Barry Seymour in the passing of their aunt.
- * Peggy Holveck in the passing of her nephew.
- * Sharon Jordan in the passing of her aunt.
- * Deborah Swinney, former member of Freetown, passed away this week.

Daily Bible Reading

October 3 Isaiah 28:14-30:11; Galatians 3:23-4:31; Psalm 62:1-12; Proverbs 23:19-21

October 4 Isaiah 30:12-33:9; Galatians 5:1-12; Psalm 63:1-11; Proverbs 23:22

October 5 Isaiah 33:10-36:22; Galatians 5:13-26; Psalm 64:1-10; Proverbs 23:23

October 6 Isaiah 37:1-38:22; Galatians 6:1-18; Psalm 65:1-13; Proverbs 23:24

October 7 Isaiah 39:1-41:16; Ephesians 1:1-23; Psalm 66:1-20; Proverbs 23:25-28

October 8 Isaiah 41:17-43:13; Ephesians 2:1-22; Psalm 67:1-7; Proverbs 23:29-35

October 9 Isaiah 43:14-45:10; Ephesians 3:1-21; Psalm 68:1-18; Proverbs 24:1-2

Sermons, Bulletins and More @
freetownroad.com

Freetown Road Church of Christ

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Service & Class Times

Sunday Bible Class: 9:30 AM

Sunday Worship: 10:30 AM

Sunday Evening Worship: 5:00 PM

Wednesday Evening Meal: 6:00 PM

Wednesday Bible Study: 7:00 PM

Minister:
Mike Lane

Sunday , September 26, 2021

Sunday Attendance-AM Worship: 54
2021 Budget: \$3,405.77
Contribution: \$2,269.12



October 3, 5:00 ish, meet at Spring Creek, 4108 S
Carrier Parkway, after services
October 5, 9:30 a.m., Ladies Bible Workers
October 6, 6:00 p.m., Wednesday evening meal
October 6, 7:00 p.m., Bible Class



Wednesday, October 5 @ 6:00p.m.



Menu: Spaghetti

Come fellowship while you eat....and then stay for a great Bible lesson from the Gospel According to John given by Mike. (John 12)

Welcome Guests!

We are delighted you have chosen to worship with us. You honor us with your presence. We pray you find your time with us uplifting and encouraging and that our worship will honor our God and bring you closer to Him. If you have any questions, simply ask one of our members, or speak to one of our ministers. Please take a moment to fill out one of our visitors' cards, so we can have a record of your visit with us. Feel free to let us know what you think by writing comments on that card. You are always welcome!

Those to Serve
October 10, 2021

Welcome & Opening Prayer, and Family Matters:
Gary Gough
Family prayer: Jerry Morris
Communion Leader: Mike Lane
Scripture Reading: Joey Anguiano
Closing Prayer: Arron Melenderz

Cleaning crew: Red team (Peggy Holveck)

The Family Gram

October 3, 2021 Volume 43 Number 41



**Freetown Road
Church of Christ**

2021

Becoming a Rainmaker

Order of Worship

Song Leader: Perry Grace

Hymn

We Praise Thee, O God

Hymn

Hallelujah, Praise Jehovah

Welcome & Opening Prayer

Jerry Morris

Hymn

A Mighty Fortress

Hymn

Faithful Love

Hymn

Come, Thou Almighty King

Family Prayer

Gary Gough

Hymn

The Love of God

Hymn

Amazing Grace

Scripture Reading

Brandon Anguiano

John 3:13-15

Sermon

The Serpent Before Christ

Hymn

I Stand Amazed

Hymn

Why Did My Savior Come to Earth

Communion Leader

Israel Esparza

Family Matters

Jerry Morris

Hymn

Blessed Be the Name

Closing Prayer

Wren Smith

Cleaning crew: Red team (Barbara Tillman)

Greeters: Jerry and Maria Morris