

Life In The Body

News and Notes for the :
Shelbyville
Church of Christ

October 7, 2018

Spiritual Growth

“If God loves me, why do I have to suffer?” This is a question on the minds of many in our world today. This question causes a great deal of turmoil in the faith and spiritual growth process of many Christians. And sadly, many end up walking away from the church, from faith, from God.

Spiritual growth is not an option for the believer. We are commanded by God through Peter to “Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ” (2 Peter 3:18). When studying this growth process in the lives of some believers, we find that they never mature, they only exist. Now, this is certainly not the case across the board, but we do see that some simply go through motions, never engaging in the broader life of the church. But let’s be clear, there’s a big difference in simply existing and maturing.

Asking the “why” question of God is not wrong, but we need to make sure we do not allow that question to lead us away from the growth that God expects to be evident in our lives. Some ask the “why” question and end up walking away. Others ask the “why” question and end up growing closer to God.

Along this spiritual journey we must be ready to face failures; we must be willing to receive Godly counsel; we must reflect on God’s work in our lives; and we must respond to trials from an eternal perspective. If we can practice these elements in our lives, spiritual growth will be the result.

— Keith Harris

The BIG Question

1 Peter 4:12-14 “ Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed.”

Although we certainly do not **feel** blessed when we're insulted and persecuted, Jesus said that we **are**, in fact, blessed (Matt. 5:11). The Lord's perspective on persecution is different from ours. He considers it a positive thing if we suffer in His name. This is one of the biggest questions in the world today...How can persecution be a good thing?!

It proves our faith. The only way we can know the capacity of our faith is by means of testing. When we persevere through a trial, we begin to understand that we can remain steadfast and obedient in the midst of a challenge. We also learn the magnitude of God's strength to support us through persecution.

It purifies our life. Persecution snaps our attention away from meaningless things and onto the Lord. We are driven into His arms by suffering. As we grow closer to Him, He'll bring to our awareness wrong attitudes and actions (some related to our trial and some not) for which we must repent. Persecution is a powerful cleansing tool.

It prepares us for greater service. Suffering breaks our self-reliance and pride attitudes that hinder our usefulness for the Lord. Pride crumbles when we realize we're incapable of living the Christian life on our own, especially when we've been insulted and hurt.

A life of ease and pleasure isn't always a sign of blessing. So let's not “be surprised at the fiery ordeal ... as though some strange thing were happening” (1 Peter 4:12-13). If persecution strengthens our faith, purifies our hearts, and equips us for greater service, then we should thank the Lord for the way He will use it in our lives.

— *Spencer Cromwell*

Observation:

The most important ability for a Christian to have in the service of God is “avail-ability.”



11th Annual Area-wide Singing in the Park

October 27, 2018

2:00 -to- 4:30

**Please mark this date on your calendar
and plan to attend. Now is the time to be
inviting your friends.**



Pride Packages For Soldiers: We rotate the items that we bring in so there will be a variety of things available for Pat to send to our soldiers. For the next two weeks we'll be bringing: For female troops, pads, panty liners, tampons ; Men's boxer shorts, dark colors, M, L, XL ; Women's cotton regular underwear in dark colors, S,M,L ; Men and Women's White crew socks (plain, no design or other colors on them) ; Men and Women's Black crew socks (no design o other colors on them)

Birthdays : Susan Bowyer October 8

Reading : **II Peter 1: 2-8 ; I Corinthians 13: 1-8**

NEXT WEEK : (October 14, 2018)

Song Leader : Greg

Scripture Reader : Larry

Table & Announcements : Bob

He who lives only to benefit himself confers on the world a benefit when he dies. -Tertullian

Prayer list :

Mike Nichols : Mike's neck surgery was successful. He is still in a lot of pain and cannot yet walk, but is much improved.

Connie : Sherry's older sister had a severe heart attack and was transferred to Christ's Hospital in Chicago. She has two arteries that are 100% blocked and one that is 95% blocked.

UPDATE : *She is scheduled for quadruple bypass on Monday*

Delaney West : Delaney's surgery was in large part successful, but they were unable to remove a small portion of the cancer which is attached to a vein. She is doing well, except for some issues with her eyes. Her tumor was by vision center

John Cutillo : John is enduring chemo treatments for lymphoma.

Debra Robinson : Problematic chemo after breast cancer surgery

Those with ongoing need of prayer :

Those with age related issues :

Ruby, Mary, Doris, Delores, Marge, Betty, Pete & Hazel,

Other members with ongoing issues :

Pete & Hazel : Dealing with multiple issues, some age related

Nancy Miller : Parkinson's Disease

Robin Shumard : Due to neurological issues which are secondary to diabetes, Robin is confined to a wheelchair.

Brenda Stevens : Ongoing severe painful back issues

Wayne : Ongoing issues related to stroke recovery

Madonna : Her biweekly chemo will continue indefinitely.

Glenda Hyneman : Multiple recurring issues, some serious

Butch Reynolds : Heart condition and back issues

Jerry Rankin : Heart Issues

Bruce Miller: Madonna's brother-in-law ..awaiting test result

Dan Luidhardt : Wayne's friend is suffering from kidney failure due to diabetes. Stabilized, but remains an ongoing problem.

*** Each day as you pray for those on this list,
always include our congregation and her elders**

*Visitors are always welcomed.
We invite you to visit our assemblies.*

Schedule of Services :

Sunday Morning : Bible Study 9:30 a.m.
Worship 10:20 a.m.

Sunday Evening : Worship 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday : Bible Study 7:00 p.m.



Ya'll Come !