

The University Heights Messenger

May 2, 2010

When The Questions Have No Answers

By Brent Lewis

Some Christians experience an unusual amount of tragedy in their lives. It has always been an amazing thing, though a great encouragement, to me when they endure it with dignity and grace.

I don't know why some people receive what may seem to us such a large portion of disaster and misfortune. It is part of the great problem of evil and suffering which mystifies us all. But what a great testimony to a Christian's faith when he or she can gracefully accept the hardships and rigors of life.

Argyle Briggs, in her book, *Root Out Of Dry Ground*, tells about the crippled girl who climbed to the top of a mountain. It took every ounce of her strength to do it as she bruised herself, climbing and falling, going on her knees most of the way. But what a marvelous sight she viewed when she reached the top. She gazed over a beautiful valley, then down on a quiet and still brook, and finally back to the mountain range across the valley. The serenity and beauty convinced her more than ever that God was supreme.

She took it all in for a few minutes, then sighed, "God, I don't know what you had in mind when you made me like this, a helpless cripple, but whatever it is I want you to know that it's all right."

There are many times in life when we just have to say, "It's all right." There are so many things we do not understand. We all have questions that cause us deep concern that can only be answered in eternity, questions that can disturb us greatly if we let them. Think of the questions that trouble millions of minds every day:

-Why do the wicked seem to prosper more than the righteous?

-Why did this sickness hit me or my family at this time--a time when so many things are already weighing down on us?

-Why did this disaster strike, killing thousands of innocent children?

-Why am I made the way I am with so many physical infirmities and troubles?

Why? Why? Why? One of the biggest words in the human vocabulary is why? Some of the questions we are troubled with can be answered. Some of them can be answered for some but not so well for others. Some just cannot be successfully answered for anyone.

Job had some bad things happen to him because the devil, with God's permission, was testing him to see if he would remain faithful to God. Job didn't know what was going on at the time, but his faith in God remained. His "friends" thought he had suffered such calamities because of sin, but they were wrong.

Joseph had some bad things happen to him because God had a plan to save His people and Joseph was part of it. Joseph didn't know that, but he would see it later.

Paul had a "thorn in the flesh" which possibly could have been a physical disease or malady. He prayed to God to take it away, but God said no, and Paul resolved to accept it and live with it.

I have certainly had my disappointments in life, but I have not experienced awful tragedies as many of my brethren have. I strongly believe that I need to count my blessings. I do not know if I could bear up under what many other Christians have to endure. I hope that I could face with the same circumstances.

Brooding over unanswerable questions can destroy us if we allow it. We cannot all be exactly alike. One thing is for sure: sooner or later in life suffering will belong to most if not all of us. We must trust in the Lord and do our

dead-level best to go on and be joyful at all times. God tells us to “**be anxious for nothing.**”

But how can we be happy in a life that is so unfair and uncertain? There is only way to do it. We must look up with a child-like faith and say as the poor little crippled girl said, “It’s all right, God. It’s all right.” That just simply but profoundly means that we humbly accept what we cannot change and are willing to make the best of it. May God grant me the faith and strength to do that when the questions have no answers.

IN NEED OF PRAYERS:

Esmeralda Agustin is struggling spiritually. Let us continue to make efforts in reaching out to her and pray that the Lord continues to show her mercy in providing time for repentance.

Glenn Kimberlin is battling pneumonia.

Rachel Crawford’s aunt, Gail Stein, continues her treatments for breast cancer.

Taylor Osterling has been discharged from the hospital. Let’s keep the little guy and his family in our prayers. There’s nothing quite like watching your child struggle with his health and Taylor is struggling mightily.

Shannon Gilbert continues to receive her treatments for breast cancer.

Rachel Knollman is doing well with her treatments at home.

Robert Brundige, Richard’s brother, is in Parkside Manor in Cynthiana dealing with some issues. **Sarah** Brundige, Richard’s mother, is in Cambridge Place Nursing Home and in need of our prayer.

Let’s also remember **David Day and his wife, Michelle Oxendine, Ron Catchen, Chuck McDavitt, and David Blakeman.**

UPCOMING EVENTS:

The men’s meeting will be next Sunday afternoon. Please make your plans now to attend.

BIBLE READING SCHEDULE FOR 5/2-5/8:

Sunday: Deut 9-10, Ps 86, Acts 9

Monday: Deut 11-12, Ps 87, Acts 10

Tuesday: Deut 13-14, Ps 88, Acts 11

Wednesday: Deut 15-17, Ps 89:1-19, Acts 12

Thursday: Deut 18-20, Ps 89:30-52, Acts 13

Friday: Deut 21-22, Ps 90, Acts 14

Saturday: Deut 23-24, Ps 91, Acts 15

SERMON TOPICS:

Sunday AM. “O You Of Little Faith”

Sunday PM. Angry Word 3

CLASS INFORMATION:

Beginning lesson 14