

Today's Order of Worship

Announcements: Greg Lowery

Song Leader: Lannie Key

Opening Prayer: Ralph Burleson

On the Table: Head - Josh Berryhill
Servers - Eddy Dickinson
Greg Lowery
Billy Box

Closing Prayer: Leonard Key

Preparing the Lord's Supper Mary Eddy

Weekly Service Times

Sunday

Bible Study	10:00 am
Morning Worship	10:45 am
Evening Worship	5:00 pm

Wednesday

Bible Study	7:00 pm
-------------	---------

Visit Our Website

www.brilliantchurchofchrist.org

Elders: Leonard Key / David Key
Billy Box / Eddy Dickinson

Deacons: Al Corkren / Josh Berryhill

Minister: Greg Lowery

Contact Information:
Phone: (205) 465-9142

Brilliant Church of Christ
930 Main Street
P.O. Box 222
Brilliant, AL 35548

A Mind Stayed On God



*The
Brilliant
Beacon*



The Possibility Of Using Our Calamities As Stepping Stones To God

By Garland Elkins

No sensible person desires troubles, difficulties, persecutions, and sorrows. However, the Bible informs us that those who follow the Lord can expect calamities. Job said, “Oh that my grief were thoroughly weighed, and my calamity laid in the balances together! For now it would be heavier than the sand of the sea: therefore my words are swallowed up”(Job 6:2-3). David cried to the Lord and said, “Hear the right, O Lord, attend unto my cry, give ear unto my prayer, that goeth not out of feigned lips” (Ps. 17:1). Likewise, our Lord Jesus Christ faced great calamities. As the ordeal of death awaited Him, He exercised the great privilege of prayer. He prayed that if possible He might not have to endure all that accompanied His betrayal, crucifixion, etc. However, He also prayed that His Father’s will be done: “And he went forward a little, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, ‘My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass away from me: nevertheless, not as I will, but as thou wilt’” (Matt. 26:39). His agony and hurt were indeed great:

And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat became as it were great drops of blood falling down upon the ground (Luke 22:44).

Who in the days of his flesh, having offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and having been heard for his godly fear (Heb. 5:7).

Sometimes our problems are health related, and often they come because of our following the Lord. Jesus said:

Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or mother, or father, or children, or lands for my sake, and for the gospel’s sake, but he shall receive a hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life (Mark 10:29-30).

THOSE WHO NEED OUR PRAYERS

Mary Rainey: has bone cancer throughout her body, please be praying for her and her family

Maylene McWhirter: her blood gases are showing signs of myeloid leukemia, please be praying for her and her family

Jack Waldon: {Linda’s Brother-In-Law} is under hospice care, please keep him and his family in your prayers

Billy Lee: {Carolyn’s Brother} diagnosed with renal failure, please keep him in your prayers

Jimmie Ann Hardy {Carolyn’s Sister}: is in the nursing home in Guin, please continue to pray that her health continues to improve

Doug Roberts: is in the nursing home in Hamilton recovering from a stroke, please keep him and his family in your prayers

Arthur Ewing: has lung cancer, please pray that he will be able to receive treatment that can help him

Robeana Green: has been diagnosed with cancer, please be praying that with treatments this cancer can be defeated

Timmy Weeks: is recovering from recent knee surgery, please continue to keep him in your prayers

Brandy Weeks: having back problems, please pray that this problem can easily be treated

Bobby Sanderson: continues to make improvements, please pray that this continues

Don Lawrence: met with doctors concerning blockage with kidneys and are going to wait until February before taking further steps, please continue to keep him your prayers

Upcoming Events

January 6 th	Country Place	2:00pm
January 13 th	Nursing Home	2:00 pm
January 20 th	Fellowship Meal	
January 20 th	Bible Bowl {Tidwell Chapel}	2:00 pm

THOSE WHO NEED OUR PRAYERS

Angie Ganey Gardner: has been diagnosed with stage 3 breast cancer, please pray that this cancer will be treatable

Amy Weeks {Donna’s Niece}: has asked for prayers to help overcome addictions, please pray that she will turn to God for help and strength

Jeff Upton {Co-Worker of Donna} severe back problems waiting to have surgery, please keep him in your prayers

Paul Glen Davis: experienced severe burns and is in serious condition at UAB, please pray for him and his family

Buddy Frazier: undergoing cancer treatments, please keep him in your prayers

Wyatt Spann: is currently fighting a brain tumor, please pray that with medical help he can win this fight

Paul wrote, “Yea, and all that would live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution” (2 Tim. 3:12).

Calamities Can Cause Us To Draw Near To God

The Psalmist wrote, “It is good for me that I have been afflicted; that I might learn thy statutes” (Ps.119:71). More than one tempest had broken upon him. However, as he looks back over his life he is aware of the fact that the very trouble that appeared to work his absolute ruin, actually had turned out for his good, for he said, “It is good for me that I have been afflicted”. We are separated from this ancient writer by centuries, cultures, and customs, yet we are like him in this respect: we have our troubles. We do not know the nature of his trouble, but his life was visited by shadows as well as the sunshine. Likewise, there are times when our skies suddenly grow dark, and though we may sail for extended periods upon smooth seas, then suddenly the tempest is upon us. Such is the common lot of humanity.

Peter wrote, “Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial among you, which cometh upon you to prove you, as though a strange thing happened unto you” (1 Pet. 4:12). Paul gives us great encouragement when he assures us that:

There hath no temptation taken you but such as man can bear: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation make also the way of escape, that ye may be able to endure it (1 Cor. 10:13).

Some Ways Some People React To Trouble

Some people at the beginning of their first trials and tribulations simply give up. Peter fell but he repented, and with the help of the Lord he started again (Luke 22:31-34). Not only was he forgiven but the Lord also used him, even allowing him to preach the first gospel sermon on the day of Pentecost, when the church was established (Acts 2:1-47). Judas, on the other hand betrayed his Lord, but unlike Peter, he did not make a new beginning, but rather went out and hanged himself (Matt. 27:1-6; Acts 1:25).

Some people allow their calamities to make them hard and cynical. They allow their sorrow to embitter them, rather than to sweeten their disposition and attitude. They become bitter rather than tender, loving, and sympathetic.

There is a third group who do not, and will not, surrender to their sorrows and tribulations, either by becoming cowards or calloused or hardened. Paul is an example of making capital out of his calamities, and changing his losses into gain. He wanted so very much to go to Rome to preach the gospel (Rom. 1:11-17). However, instead of being permitted to go to Rome as a free man to preach the gospel, he went as a prisoner. In spite of that turn of events, the very things that seemed destined to thwart him made possible the realization of his hope, for when he wrote a letter from his prison cell in Rome to the Philippians he stated, “Now I would have you know, brethren, that the things which happened unto me have fallen out rather unto the progress of the gospel” (Phil. 1:12). Joseph was so mistreated, despised, and persecuted; nevertheless, after a few years had passed he looked back over all of his afflictions and realized that God had brought him through them all with honor and success for himself, and a tremendous blessing for his family, and the entire world. He said to his penitent brothers, “But as for you, ye thought evil against me: but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive” (Gen. 50:20).

Truth Believed, Obeyed and Practiced, Will Cause The Christian To Triumph

Jesus said, “But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you” (Matt. 6:33). Great and wonderful is the truth regarding God’s ability to help us, as set out in the following Scripture: “Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us” (Eph. 3:20). One of the high water passages of the entire Bible is Romans 8:28, “And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose”. Observe that the apostle said “all things” which includes all that life comprehends. He said that they “work together”.

In life there is shadow and sunshine. In spite of what happens to us we can rejoice that we can know and say, “For our light affliction, which is for the moment, worketh for us more and more exceedingly an eternal weight of glory” (2 Cor. 4:17). The apostle says that they worked together “for good”. As Christians we have confidence, for Paul said, “we know”. When faithful we have blessed assurance:

For which cause I suffer also these things: yet I am not ashamed; for I know him whom I have believed, and I am persuaded that he is able to guard that which I have committed unto him against that day (2 Tim. 1:12).

However, we must ever remember that the great promises of Romans 8:28 are only for the obedient Christian (1 John 5:3; Matt. 7:21; Heb. 5:8-9; Rev. 22:14).

Elkins, Garland, “*The Possibility Of Using Our Calamities As Stepping Stones To God*”, POWER Gospel Journal, October 1990, vol. 1, no. 3, (Southaven, MS., Southaven Church of Christ), p. 9-13.

