

Struggles

Job 14:1 Man *that is* born of a woman *is* of few days, and full of trouble.

- “*Oh to be able to get through at least one week without something bad happening!*”
How often would you say that you’ve uttered words similar to those? “*If it isn’t one thing it’s another!*” “*If it weren’t for bad luck I wouldn’t have any luck at all.*”

Ecc 3:10 I have seen the **travail** (*Heb.6045- ado [Webster: fuss, **trouble**]*), which **God hath given** to the sons of men **to be exercised** (*Heb.6031- **humble***) **in it**.

Heb 12:5 And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of Him: **6** For whom the Lord loveth He chastens, and scourges every son whom He receiveth. **7** If ye endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chastens not?

Job

Job 1:8 And the LORD said unto Satan, Hast thou considered My servant Job, that *there is* none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil? **9** Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, Doth Job fear God for nought? **10** Hast not Thou made an hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side? Thou hast blessed the work of his hands, and his substance is increased in the land. **11** But put forth Thine hand now, and touch all that he hath, and he will curse Thee to Thy face. **12** And the LORD said unto Satan, Behold, all that he hath *is* in thy power; only upon himself put not forth thine hand. So Satan went forth from the presence of the LORD.

- As a follower of **God**, notice how after **Job** was subjected to **Satan’s** devices, how he dealt with the loss of his oxen, sheep, camels, servants and finally his sons and daughters at the hands of the **Sabeans** and **Chaldeans**.

Job 1:21 And (**Job**) said, Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD. **22** In all this Job sinned not, nor charged God foolishly.

- Now notice how **Job** reacted after being struck with boils over his entire body.

Job 2:9 Then said his wife unto him, Dost thou still retain (*Heb.2388- **confirm***) thine integrity (*Heb.8538- **innocence***)? curse (*Heb.1288- to kneel; by implication to **bless God** [as an act of adoration]*) God, and die. **10** But he said unto her, Thou speakest as one of the foolish women speaketh. What? shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil? In all this did not Job sin with his lips.

- To his wife, **Job** had to have done something wrong to have such misfortune fall on him. She felt for **Job** and wanted him to end his suffering by just giving up, kneeling down and dying. But **Job** **did** hold on to the fact that he was innocent of any sin that would have brought such wrath from **God**. Just because bad things happen to good people doesn’t mean then, that we must have done something wrong to deserving of it.

Solutions

Ecc 3:22 Wherefore I perceive that *there is* nothing better, than that a man should rejoice in his own works; for that *is* his portion: for who shall bring him to see what shall be after him?

Jas 4:14 Whereas ye know not what *shall be* on the morrow. For what *is* your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.

- Life is too short to sweat the small stuff. And “*small stuff*” comes in different sizes and quantities. Everybody has them. One person might think his is more abundant in comparison to someone else’s but ultimately there will always be someone who struggles more.

Gal 6:2 **Bear ye one another's burdens**, and so fulfil the law of Christ. **3** For if a man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself.

Heb 12:1 Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside **every weight**, and the sin which doth so easily beset (*Gk.2139- thwarting*) us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, **2** Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of *our* faith; Who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. **3** For consider Him that **endured such contradiction** of sinners against Himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds. **4** **Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving** (*Gk.464- to struggle against*) **against sin.** (*If we did maybe we'd have something to be anxious about.*)

Php 4:6 Be careful (*Gk.3309- anxious*) for nothing; but **in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving** (*Gk.2169- gratitude; actually grateful language*) let your requests be made known unto God. **7** And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding (*Gk.3563- intellect*), shall keep your hearts (*Gk.2588- thoughts or feelings*) and minds (*Gk.3540- intellect, disposition*) through Christ Jesus.

- Did you think to pray?

Rom 12:12 Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation (*Gk.2347- pressure*); continuing instant (*Gk.4342- be constantly diligent*) in prayer;

Money Isn't The Answer

Mat 19:16 And, behold, one came and said unto Him, Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life? (*Noticing the good that Jesus displayed this young man wanted the popularity that went with it before understanding the sacrifice.*) **17** And He said unto him, **Why callest thou Me good? there is none good but One, that is, God** (*You can't be equal with Him.*); **but if thou wilt enter into life** (*But you can attain eternal life.*), **keep the commandments.** **18** He saith unto Him, Which? (*Wanting the specific laws named so he could check them off.*) Jesus said, **Thou shalt do no murder, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness,** **19 Honour thy father and thy mother: and, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.** **20** The young man saith unto Him, All these things have I kept from my youth up: what lack I yet? (*“See, I'm already as good as You!”*) **21** Jesus said unto him, **If thou wilt be perfect** (*Complete but not equal to Christ.*), **go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in**

heaven: and come *and follow Me*. 22 But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful: for **he had great possessions**. 23 Then said Jesus unto His disciples, Verily I say unto you, That a rich man shall hardly enter into the kingdom of heaven.

Ecc 5:10 He that loveth silver shall not be satisfied with silver; nor he that loveth abundance with increase: this *is* also vanity.

- How many among us may have at some point in life stated “*Man, if I had a million bucks I wouldn’t have any more problems with my finances*” or after hearing of the misfortunes of those who won the lottery you might have said “*Just give me a million or two and I’ll show you how to handle it wisely*”? The prodigal son probably said the same thing.

Luk 15:13 And not many days after the younger son gathered all together, and took his journey into a far country, and there **wasted his substance** with riotous living. 14 And when he had **spent all**, there arose a mighty famine in that land; and he **began to be in want**. 15 And he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country; and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. (*To a Jew this would have been about the lowest you could go before starving to death.*) 16 And he would fain have filled his belly with the husks that the swine did eat: and no man gave unto him. 17 And when **he came to himself**, he said, How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! 18 I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee, 19 And am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants.

1Ti 6:10 For the **love of money** (*Gk.5365- avarice [Webster: desire/greed for money]*) is the root of all evil: which **while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith**, and pierced themselves through with **many sorrows**.

Jesus gave us the real answers.

Heb 2:18 For in that He Himself hath suffered being tempted (*Gk.3985- to test*), He is able to succour (*Gk.997- to aid or relieve*) them that are tempted.

2Co 12:7 And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet (*Gk.2852- to rap with the fist*) [*Paul had one of those “Wow, I could have had a V-8” moments.*] me, lest I should be exalted above measure. 8 For this thing I besought the Lord **thrice**, that it might depart from me. 9 And He said unto me, **My grace is sufficient for thee: for My strength is made perfect** (*Gk.5048- complete*) **in weakness**. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. 10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.

Paul’s advice to Timothy

2Ti 2:3 Thou therefore endure hardness (*hardships*), as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. 4 No man that wars entangles himself (*involves himself*) with the affairs of *this* life; that he may please Him Who hath chosen him to be a soldier.

2Ti 4:2 Preach the word; be instant in season (*when the opportunity presents itself...*), out of season (*...and even when it doesn't.*); reprove, rebuke, exhort with all **longsuffering** and **doctrine**. ... 5 But watch thou in all things, **endure afflictions**, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.

Lessons the Israelites learned.

Deu 8:2 And thou shalt remember all the way which the LORD thy God led thee these forty years in the wilderness, **to humble thee**, *and to prove thee*, to know what *was* in thine heart, whether thou wouldest keep His commandments, or no.

- Who really needed to know this? The Israelites did!

Deu 9:4 Speak not thou in thine heart, after that the LORD thy God hath cast them out from before thee, saying, For my righteousness the LORD hath brought me in to possess this land: but for the wickedness of these nations the LORD doth drive them out from before thee.

Isa 64:6 But we are all as an unclean *thing*, and **all our righteousnesses** *are* as **filthy rags**; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.

1Co 10:12 Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.

Psa 139:23 Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts:
24 And see if *there be any* wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

- God knows us better than we do!

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2Th 1:3 We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is meet (*Gk.514- **deserving***), because that **your faith groweth exceedingly**, and the charity (*love*) of every one of you all toward each other (*Gal 6:2*) abounds (*increases*); 4 So that we ourselves glory (*Gk.2744- **boast***) in you in the churches of God (*among the other congregations.*) for **your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that ye endure**: 5 *Which is a manifest token (Gk.1730- **an indication**) of the righteous judgment of God (God notices our good works and keeps us growing even through the struggles), that ye may be counted worthy (Gk.2661- to **deem entirely deserving**) of the kingdom of God, for which ye also suffer:*

- Struggles in life are badges of honor, not to be avoided, given by God to His faithful saints in whatever doses He understands we can handle to increase our faith.

1Co 10:13 There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God *is* faithful, Who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear *it*.

- How often do we look for that way to escape but have to search even harder from time to time? Sometimes God hides it because we might not have learned enough from whatever the struggle. We can tell when we are about the work of the Lord, because Satan notices and the trials begin. But God takes those trials and turns them into lessons and strengthens us by them. If we pray that God would take away the trials then we are asking not to be taught lessons that would ultimately strengthen us and keep us on the

road to Heaven. What is God trying to say to me? Am I going away from Him? Do I even know it?

Heb 12:8 But if ye be without chastisement (*Gk.3809- tutorage, that is, education or training; by implication disciplinary correction*), whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards (*Gk.3541- a spurious [false] or illegitimate son*), and not sons.

1Pe 2:20 For what glory *is it*, if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently? but if, when ye do well, and suffer (*for it*), ye take it patiently, this *is* acceptable with God. 21 For even **hereunto were ye called***: because Christ also suffered for us, **leaving us an example**, that ye should follow His steps: 22 Who did no sin, neither was guile found in His mouth: 23 Who, when He was reviled, reviled not again; when He suffered, He threatened not; but committed *Himself* to Him that judgeth righteously: 24 Who His Own self bare our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by Whose stripes ye were healed.

- *Called to suffer, knowing God has something better in store for us (Heb 11:40).*

Isa 64:4 For since the beginning of the world *men* have not heard, nor perceived by the ear, neither hath the eye seen, O God, beside Thee, *what* He hath prepared for him that waiteth for Him.

Psa 27:14 Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and He shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD.

Luk 21:19 **In your patience possess ye your souls.**

2Co 1:7 And our hope of you *is* steadfast (*Gk.949- firm*), knowing, that as ye are partakers (*Gk.2844- companion*) of the sufferings, so *shall ye be* also of the consolation (*Gk.3874- comfort*).

2Ti 4:7 I have fought a good fight, I have finished *my* course, I have kept the faith: 8 Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: **and not to me only**, but unto all them also that love His appearing.

- *Struggles will exist as long as sin exists. As we do our part in bringing our share of souls to Christ we make the world that much more without sin.*

Pro 30:7 Two *things* have I required of Thee; deny me *them* not before I die: 8 Remove far from me vanity and lies: give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with food convenient for me: 9 Lest I be full, and deny *Thee*, and say, Who *is* the LORD? or lest I be poor, and steal, and take the name of my God *in vain*.

- *Becoming a Christian just might increase the struggles we go through in this life, but it sure can keep us from having to tolerate an eternity of pain and suffering.*

Hear: Romans 10:17 ..."faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."

Believe: Heb 11:6 ..."for he that commeth to God must believe that He is"...

Repent: Lk 13:3 ..."except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish."

Confess: Mat 10:32 "Whosoever shall confess Me before men, him will I confess before

My Father which is in Heaven."

Be baptized: Acts 22:16 "And now why tarriest thou? Arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord."

Remain faithful: Rom 6:4 ..."even so we also should walk in newness of life."

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April 14, 2013

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