

Facing Life's Trials

by Doug Roush Knollwood church of Christ Beavercreek, OH

Human suffering has been around since the expulsion of Adam and Eve from the Garden of Eden (Gen. 3:16-19). The causes are many: sin, accidents, natural disasters, illness, wars, violation of natural laws, hatred, persecution, jealousy, betrayal of confidence, death, etc. All people experience it to some degree and in various ways. There is no escape from the experience of suffering. Some people are embittered by it and lose their faith in God. Others look into the word of God so as to understand suffering and how to respond to it.

There is considerable divine revelation available to us about life's trials in God's holy writ. The knowledge and understanding we gain from His word can help us immensely in facing the trials of life. Ultimately, Satan is the cause of all suffering. Job's afflictions came from Satan and were a test of his faith. James recorded, "My brethren, take the prophets, who spoke in the name of the Lord, as an example of suffering and patience" (James 5:10). The sufferings of Elijah, Micaiah, Jeremiah, and the apostle Paul were messengers of Satan to dissuade them in the Lord's work (cf. 2 Cor. 12:7).

When we view any trial or suffering as a test of our faith and determine that we will not allow it to defeat us, we can turn Satan's intention for our suffering back on him and be strengthened by it rather than be discouraged or defeated by it. God reveals that we can learn the precious and necessary lessons of patience when we endure trials. James wrote, "My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience" (James 1:2-3). With divine revelation of the mystery of suffering, the apostles could rejoice when they had been jailed and beaten for preaching Christ (Acts 5:41).

Sickness and death are hard to understand apart from God's revelation. Often, people blame God, or sometimes themselves. The death of Job's children was not because of any sin of Job, nor his children. It was the work of Satan in an attempt to destroy Job's faith. The blindness of the man in John 9 was not the result of his sin, or of the sin of his parents. However, Jesus used his unfortunate circumstance to demonstrate the glory of God. Although we may not be able to miraculously overcome suffering and trials, the glory of God's peace can be demonstrated by those who have placed their hope in Him. Whether sickness or death is caused by one's own misdoing or by an unfortunate circumstance, one can turn that stone of trial into a stepping stone toward developing stronger faith, patience, and righteous determination. Rather than viewing life as a struggle that we are ultimately going to lose, we are to view life as a struggle that we will win - even over death itself (1 Cor. 15:53-57).

The only way we can win the struggle of life is with the strength of the Lord. In humble submission and obedience to God we prepare ourselves for godly living, faithful worship, and service to God. Although life is full of trial and trouble, in the end, we can be victorious, if we will abide in Christ and His will.

It is certain that we will stand before God in judgment (Heb. 9:17). That we can hear Him say, "Well done" (Matt. 25:21), is also certain. We can be "more than conquerors through Him Who loved us" (Rom.8:35-37).

Let us face life's troubles and trials with the knowledge of God's promises and the determination to glorify Him in the practice of His righteousness to His glory.

NEWSLETTER

Jan. 30, 2022

Mark Dailey, evangelist
(716) 754-2752

minister@lasallechurchofchrist.org

Schedule of Services

Our current schedule is:

Sunday AM Worship 11:00 AM

La Salle
church of Christ
A place of worship and healing.

1121 N. Military Rd.
Niagara Falls, NY 14304
(716) 283-1214

lasallechurchofchrist.org



We welcome all who are here today.

If you are a visitor we are honored to have you with us. Please fill out a *Visitor Card* (on the back of the pew in front of you). We would like for you to place the *Visitor Card* in one of the receptacles provided at the front and rear of the auditorium. There will be an opportunity to give but as a visitor it is not expected of you. Thanks.



There is a nursery at the rear of the auditorium up the stairs if you need to care for your infant.



Read God's Word

If you have an announcement or prayer request for the bulletin please contact Wayne Carter before noon on Friday.

Please keep cell phones and other noise making devices silent. Thank you.



We welcome Wayne Lyons who let it be known last Sunday he wants to work with us here at LaSalle.

James 5:16

Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.

Prayers *In our prayers, let's praise God, recognize His greatness, thank Him for His Son and His blessings.*

Please pray as we continue our search for a gospel preacher.

Let's pray for those suffering in the Philippines from recent devastating weather conditions.

Joyce Flanagan has been having back issues.

Anna Brink She has been diagnosed with lung cancer. Let's pray for her and the family.

Diane Mellott is dealing with severe arthritis in her right hip causing her difficulty walking. She is facing surgery in the future. She is suppose to get a Cortisone shot Tuesday and see her doctor in April.

Glen Mueller Prayers for Glen Muller and family – Glen has been moved to Jennie B. Nursing & Rehab in Springville, NY. He is making slight improvement and continues to need our prayers.

Let's pray not only for those that are physically sick but those that are spiritually sick as well.

Please keep our loved ones and their caregivers in your thoughts and prayers.

Let's pray for our members that have ongoing health and other issues.

Let's pray for family, friends, and loved ones of our members who are having health and other issues.

Let's pray for our shut-ins, widows, and widowers and call and send cards and be of service.

Let's pray for those dealing with family situations as well as work situations.

Let's pray for those dealing with weather related disasters.

Let's pray for those of our number who are looking for employment.

Let's pray for those that are traveling. May they have a safe journey.

Let's pray for God's people that are doing mission work all over the world.

Let's pray for people the world over that we may all learn to get along with each other.

Let's pray for those taking Bible correspondence courses at the present time.

Let's pray for children, families, and the staff at *Potter Children's Home and Family Ministries*.

Let's pray for the work being done at Great Lakes Christian High School in Beamsville, ONT.

Let's pray for our neighbors receiving *House to House/Heart to Heart* that they have receptive hearts.

Upcoming Events *(Lord willing)*

Feb. 14 Valentine's Day

Feb. 20 Men's Business Meeting

Feb. 21 President's Day

Weekly Budget Amount \$1,843.00

Contribution Last Sunday \$1,190.00

Attendance Last Sunday 27

Financial Reports and Meeting Minutes are posted in the back of the auditorium.

Offering Receipts

Offering receipts for 2021 were mailed out recently. Please see Audrey if you did not receive a record of your offering and would like one.

Ladies

The Ladies Tuesday morning Bible class has been postponed until further notice. More info to follow later.

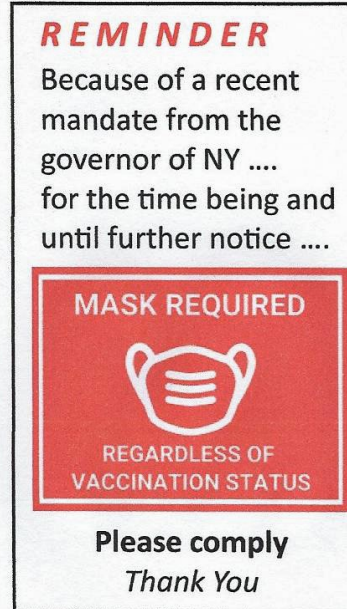
Caleb Callari's Radio Program - "Everyday Follower"

Do a search on YouTube for
Everyday Follower, School of National Evangelism - Philippines

Please check the "Mission Board" in the back of the auditorium.

Widows & Widowers

Please remember our widows and widowers in cards, calls, and helpful service. **James 1:27**



Remember Social Distancing

February Birthdays

10 Jeffrey Elder

17 Kris Kinney

18 Diane Mellott

26 Kelly Henry

28 Michael Rice

February Anniversaries

23 Bill & Kris Kinney

Weather Related Cancellation of Services

With the possibility for inclement weather be sure to check TV station Channel 2 for any cancellation of services. If you are unable to view this channel please call someone before traveling to the building to confirm whether services are being held.

The "Phone Tree" will also be used in this situation. Always use your own discretion when traveling in inclement weather. The safety of those that attend is of utmost importance.