

Wholeness

Quarterly World Digest of Christian Healing

Founded 1957.

P.O. Box 16099, Hamilton, New Zealand.

Gratis.

FACING THE DAY AHEAD

John Ryeland, CHM No. 6 2010.

Do you ever wake up in the morning in a small panic at the thought of the day ahead of you? If so, maybe it is caused by thinking about all that you have to get done, or by dreading a certain event, or perhaps just physically getting up is a major challenge in itself. I have been very struck recently by some words from 2 Peter 1.3,4, "His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature." Praise God! Let's look at a few key revelations in these verses.



John Ryeland

"Has given us"

I wonder how many times we call out for God to give us things, when actually he has already given us so much. We already have Jesus through his Holy Spirit; this is not a blessing that is yet to be given to us!

"Everything we need"

No doubt we could list all the things that we feel we need to equip us for the lives that we lead. It's quite easy to blur the difference between the things that we need and the things that we want, and to see God as quite mean, only grudgingly giving out bowls of gruel to his hungry children. But God has revealed himself as the one who loves to give good gifts to his children! He is not mean, but generous, as Paul says in Romans 8.32, "He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all - how will he not also along with him, graciously give us all things." As I often say - 'he has given us the best, we can have the rest!' We already have everything that we need! **"Everything"** is clearly quite a lot!

"His very great and precious promises"

This is so beautiful! We are told that his promises have been given to us out of his glory and goodness. Some might think of the promises of God as being like obstacle courses that we can't quite negotiate, requiring an impossible amount of faith. The amazing verses from 2 Peter give us such a lovely way of looking at those promises, the right way; they are given to us not as a test but as a gift sourced from his goodness.

How do we put these things into practice? Here are two suggestions for coping with whatever we face in the day ahead. First, let us acknowledge what we are actually feeling. If we are honest our feelings might be quite negative. Rather than continuing to live "under the circumstances" the next step is to apply a promise as a balm to those feelings. What better alternative than to focus on Jesus' promise to be with us. This is not just a comforting thought

offering us a little reassurance, but rather a key divine truth that we can absolutely rely on. He is here, our Saviour has been given to us; we don't have to ask God for the presence of Jesus - The Holy Spirit is with us already!

A second related step can be to pray for a greater awareness of his presence. It might be helpful to consciously think through the day ahead and see Jesus at each

moment that could otherwise cause concern or fear within us. This is something I have shared before, practising the reality of bearing his name. The daily exercise I suggest is that each time you breathe in during a five minute period you let the words, "I bear your name", flow through your being. Then, as you breathe out, focus on the words, "Lord God Almighty." What this confession does is to remind us of the glorious truth of Jeremiah 15.16, that wherever we go, whatever we do, we carry with us the awesome presence of the living God!

We all face difficult days, but what will make the difference is our attitude towards those difficulties. The wonderful thing is that God has already gone before us and "given us everything we need for life", and that includes everything we need for life **today**.



God is as willing to enter into the heart, as light is willing to flood a room that is opened to its brightness.

Corrie ten Boom

Jesus, who invited himself to the home of the crook Zacchaeus, who saved the adulteress from stoning and gave her freedom from condemnation, who offered the woman at the well the Living Water of Himself, in every one of these encounters began by drawing attention away from people's sin and focussing upon what he longed to give. Exodus Ministries Newsletter, Sept. 2010.



*From the
Editor*

Let's Do It ... His Way

Can we do too much for God? The odd answer is that we are very good at doing too much, and we are regularly found doing that at which we are very good! What may seem even more strange is that the devil heartily approves of our efforts! Why? Because our natural inclination is to "do", while our God given role is to "rest". The former, when done in our own strength, produces nothing of value, as stated so clearly in John 15.5 "... apart from me you can do nothing." On the other hand, rest, the kind of rest appointed by God, produces fruit for eternal life, "Come to me, all of you who are tired from carrying heavy loads, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke and put it on you, and learn from me, because I am gentle and humble in spirit; and you will find rest. For the yoke I will give you is easy, and the load I will put on you is light." (Matthew 11.28-30)

Our cherished priorities can seem so important, and yet, "... my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts." (Isaiah 55.8,9) Truly, if our service in the kingdom is ever a heavy load then it is time to come to Jesus. Just as there is a time to come for salvation there is a time to come to him for refreshment and redirection. "So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him." (Col. 2.6) Serving with our whole heart shouldn't be an onerous experience, but rather a liberating one. No-one had more hardships and responsibilities than Paul (read 2 Cor.11.22-28) and yet he could proclaim, "... and if I be offered upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I joy, and rejoice with you all." (Phil. 2.17)

We cannot fail to find joy as we draw our strength from God himself and as we step forward to serve in the power of the Holy Spirit. Let us be like Habakkuk and boldly proclaim, "I will joy in the God of my salvation. The Lord God is my strength, and he will make my feet like hinds' feet, and he will make me to walk upon mine high places." (Hab. 3.18, 19) Say it to yourself, "... and he will make me" He has a part, and we have a part. Our part is to wait upon him until we know his will, and then to do as he bids us. May we follow Mary's example in Luke 10 and choose the better part. May we experience all comfort in knowing that it is not up to us at all, but rather, "God is always at work in you to make you willing and able to obey his own purpose." (Phil. 2.13) Amen!

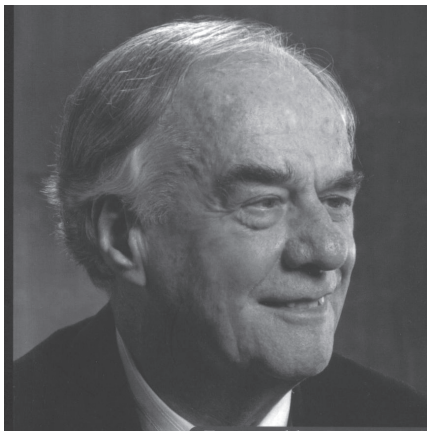
SUFFERING IS GOOD, SICKNESS IS BAD

Canon Jim Glennon, St. Andrew's Cathedral Healing Ministry, Sydney. Rewritten from Wholeness May 1981

"Is anyone among you afflicted? (ill-treated, suffering evil) He should pray."

James 5.13 (Amplified Bible)

It is often said that there is value in suffering. Since sickness is seen as a part of suffering it could be concluded that there is value in sickness, and therefore it might not always be God's will for us to be healed. Is this right? Our guide to answering such questions is God's written word. It is only by examining all relevant passages of scripture that we can gain clear understanding about this or about any doctrine.



Canon Jim Glennon

SUFFERING

Firstly, let us look at what suffering was to Jesus Christ. "And so Jesus also suffered outside the city gate to make the people holy through his own blood." (Hebrews 13.12) Christ's suffering was to do with atonement, not with sickness. Jesus suffered, but He was certainly never sick. Now we know that, as Jesus' disciples, we are called to "... share abundantly in Christ's sufferings..." (2 Cor. 1.5), and naturally the following words of Jesus' also apply to each of us, "You will drink the cup I drink and be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with..." (Mark 10.39) However, this does not mean that we share in the sufferings of Christ's atonement, for only he could make us right with God. Rather, our share is for righteousness' sake, "Even if you do suffer for righteousness sake ..." (1 Pet. 3.14), and more definitively still, "All that live Godly lives shall suffer persecution", (2 Tim. 3.12). Was any disciple more persecuted than Paul? What a privilege and a blessing that we are also called to "... fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh for his body's sake, which is the church..." (Colossians 1.24)

But what is the kind of suffering to which we are called, the kind which we should not, and cannot, avoid? The New Testament consistently teaches that suffering for the believer is the persecution that comes simply as the result of being a Christian! Jesus taught, "Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you." (Matthew 5.10-12) Note the words "**when** people insult you", there is no "**if**". There are no armchair Christians worthy of the name.

SICKNESS

The New Testament view of sickness is quite different to its teaching on suffering. The person who was sick only needed faith for them to be healed. Never did Jesus or His disciples say, "Your sickness is doing you good; you cannot be healed." Rather, the sufferer always heard words like, "Only believe ..." or "... according to your faith be it unto you ..." or "... your faith has made you whole." Sickness is a direct result of the fall of man; it is the result of sin. But Jesus has redeemed us from the power and the penalty of sin, as scripture so

clearly tells us, "The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work." (1 John 3.8) And certainly the devil's work includes sickness, for Jesus "... went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil." Could God's will regarding sickness and healing be any clearer?

THERE IS A DIFFERENCE

James 5.13-15 makes a deliberate distinction between suffering and sickness. "Is any of you suffering? Let him pray . . . Is any of you sick? Let them call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord, and the prayer of faith will save the sick man and the Lord will raise him up, and if he has committed sins he will be forgiven." **It is plain that the only faith the sick person needs is enough to ask others to have faith with him for his healing from God!** This is one of the main insights that I have come to draw upon in my experience as a Christian minister. I say to the person in need, "You had faith to come, I now accept faith responsibility for you." There is no place to ever say, "You have not enough faith." If someone has faith enough to come then the Bible says faith responsibility is to be exercised by the elders of the church. By extension it is also to be exercised by the congregation, indeed by the whole body of Christian believers.

Putting all this in practical terms, if you are sick then have faith to call and let the church join their faith with yours. Draw on all available blessing, including being anointed with oil, by which you are consecrated to God. Be prayed over with the prayer of faith, which involves a threefold promise: that you will be saved, healed (raised up) and forgiven. There are innumerable people whose lives have been transformed because they received enlightenment from the Word of God that in order to be delivered from their state of sickness all they had to do was to come in faith.

Each of us can have a foretaste now of our inheritance in heaven, the inheritance to which we are called in Revelation 22.17, "The Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let the one who hears say, "Come!" Let the one who is thirsty come; and let the one who wishes take the free gift of the water of life." Each of us can respond to the call and be like one of those who came to Jesus in Matthew 12.15, "... and he healed them all ..." We cannot doubt that sickness is bad, and outside of God's will, because, out of his love "... he healed them all." Let us have faith in him to heal us too.

**"Be joyful always, pray at all times, be thankful in all circumstances. This is what God wants from you in your life in union with Christ Jesus."
(1 Thessalonians 5.116)**

The Solid Rock



Edward Mote, 1863



*My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness.
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
But wholly trust in Jesus' Name.*

*On Christ the solid Rock I stand,
All other ground is sinking sand;
All other ground is sinking sand.*

*When darkness seems to hide His face,
I rest on His unchanging grace.
In every high and stormy gale,
My anchor holds within the veil.*

Refrain

*His oath, His covenant, His blood,
Support me in the whelming flood.
When all around my soul gives way,
He then is all my Hope and Stay.*

Refrain

*When He shall come with trumpet sound,
Oh may I then in Him be found.
Dressed in His righteousness alone,
Faultless to stand before the throne.*

Refrain

We can make one of two mistakes as we consider how to spend our time. Some relax in the belief they've so much time they can afford to waste it, while others fret that they've so little time that they can't possibly do something significant. Our days are like suitcases, all the same size, but some people can pack more into them than others. Numbering your days means offering them to God and seeking His direction for your life. That is real wisdom.

Bob Gass

ORDER OF ST. LUKE

For all OSL enquiries: Brian and Shirley Flower, Co-General Secretaries,
53 St Ann Road, RD 2, Waipu 0582, New Zealand, gensec@oslnz.org
or phone 09-432 0421. For prayer requests, testimonies etc.,
contact "Wholeness" using the addresses on page 4.



Cast all your anxieties on him (God),
because he cares for you. (1 Peter 5.7)

The apostle Peter wrote this letter to the Christians in Asia Minor at a time of persecution. It was written to reassure and encourage them during a time of suffering and uncertainty. He says they are to see their suffering as "sharing Christ's sufferings." (4.13) Near the end of the letter Peter encourages his readers to put their trust in God who will see them through this time of trouble. These words are reminiscent of those from Psalm 55.22,

*"Cast your burden on the Lord,
and he will sustain you;
He will never permit the righteous
to be moved."*

What Peter is saying is that when we are anxious, when the going gets tough, let God carry the load. The word 'cast' means to throw or hurl with force. Therefore we are to hurl our anxieties upon God knowing that nothing will take him by surprise.

The English mystic, Julian of Norwich (c.1342 - c.1416), lived in a period of darkness in the church. Many people came to her for the encouragement that the church did not provide. She spoke to them of God's love as being like a great cloak enfolding each of us. "All shall be well," she would say. All shall be

well because God reigns and holds us in his hand. Julian also spoke of Jesus as feeding us from his own life energy and assuring us that we will not be overcome.

I believe that the words of Peter are a very timely reminder to us at a time when there are so many things happening in our own society, and in the wider world, that can cause us great anxiety and concern for the future. It is easy to become distracted in a world where we do not know when and where the next earthquake, tsunami, rainstorm or tornado will strike. Even the best efforts of scientists cannot help us predict these things. For many people the world is a place where random events occur all the time and we never know when it will be our turn to suffer. Peter's letter reminds us that even though trouble may seek to disturb our peace of mind God is still in control of the world he made. He may not prevent the trouble from coming our way but he is with us through our difficulties, and his grace is sufficient to see us through. It is helpful to remember how God's grace has been sufficient in the past, and this will help us go into the future in hopeful trust.

The peace of Christ be with you all.

Lionel Brown



Rev. Lionel Brown

"Apart from me you can do nothing." (John 15.5)

(Archbishop W. Temple,
Reading in St John's Gospel, p260-1).

In all my strivings to attain some ideal, or to perform some service, unless my heart and will are wholly captivated, there will be some self-assertion, and probably a great deal. That is why the consciously virtuous person is disagreeable. It is not virtue that can save the world or anyone in it, but love. And love is not at our command. We cannot generate it from within ourselves. We can win it only by surrender to it. The 'strong man armed' of our self-complacency is secure until the 'stronger than he' cometh. (Luke 11. 21,22) There will be no full surrender except to the perfect manifestation of perfect love, that is to say to Jesus Christ come in the flesh.

We cannot too strongly or too harshly drive this truth into our souls, however eager we may be to trace the grace of Jesus Christ in others. Apart from him I can do nothing. All fruit that I ever bear or can bear comes wholly from his life within me. No particle of it is mine as distinct from his. There is no doubt some part of his whole purpose that he would accomplish through me; that is my work, my fruit, in the sense I, and not another, am the channel of his life for this end; but in no other sense (am I able to do anything of value at all).



Archbishop W. Temple

A Hard Saying of Jesus

Dan Corner, <http://www.evangelicaloutreach.org/cross.htm>

The clear call made throughout the gospels to take up one's cross and follow Jesus requires a response from each of us if we are to qualify as being "worthy" of Jesus (Mt. 10.38) and to indeed be his "disciple" (Lk. 14.27). See also Mt. 16.24, Mk. 8.34 and Lk. 9.23. Unfortunately, the meaning of this phrase concerning our cross has too often become watered down to imply something less than the high demands set forth by the Lord himself.

The correct way to understand Scripture is to seek to learn what the original writer or speaker was saying to his audience. In other words, what the message meant to them at that time in that setting. When Jesus spoke of a "cross" He was speaking of something the people around him were acquainted with, since capital punishment, carried out in public, was a common means of execution at that time. The condemned person was forced to carry his own cross to where he would be nailed to it to die while the crowds watched. So, at that time these words of Jesus might have been rendered thus, "If anyone wishes to come after me, let him be prepared to be led out to public execution, following my example." (The Hard Sayings of Jesus, F. F. Bruce, p. 150).



Pastor Dan Corner

How different from the easy, present-day interpretation of a lasting sickness or a lingering, unpleasant and challenging circumstance. NO! These things have nothing to do with our "cross"! How could they, since even unsaved people are similarly afflicted! Bruce tells us that taking up the cross means literally preparing for persecution and death for Jesus' sake.

Since this is the proper interpretation, then many who profess to be Christians are surely unworthy of Jesus and are disqualified from the status of disciple! Think about yourself. Are you living with a martyr's attitude? Are you willing and ready to suffer or die for the cause of Christ? Remember, the word most commonly rendered "witness" in Acts 1.8 is martyr! We are to be Jesus' present-day martyrs, as millions in the past literally were proven to be by giving their very lives for the cause of Christ.

It is a fact, "... everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ

Jesus will be persecuted." (2 Tim. 3.12). Since the sinful world is certainly no friend of God's, it will at times pour out hate-filled persecution on us, the servants of God. This is to be expected; it's par for our course as we carry our cross, facing persecution and death for Jesus' sake. Considering the rewards we are promised, should it be any other way? "... continue to endure and believe through all the persecutions and sufferings you are experiencing ... and as a result you will become worthy of his Kingdom, for which you are suffering." (2 Thes. 1.4, 5.)



"If you haven't got time to read your bible it's not that you have a problem with your schedule, but rather you have a problem with your love relationship with God."
Rev. Bob Barnes, Hamilton, NZ

Why did God send the Holy Spirit?

The Spirit came upon Christian individuals in order to create in them a quality of life that would otherwise be beyond their powers. He came upon the Christian community in order to unite them into a fellowship which could not be paralleled in any other group. BUT ... the prime purpose was to equip God's people for mission. The Comforter comes not in order to allow men to be comfortable, but to make them missionaries.

Michael Green, "I Believe In The Holy Spirit"

"Prayer isn't giving God instructions, it is reporting for duty."
Anon

Strength for Every Endeavor

John Borman, Faith for Daily Living

"Christ gives me the strength to face anything." (Phil 4.13)

On New Year's Day 1790 John Wesley wrote in his journal, "I am now an old man, decayed from head to foot. My eyes are dim, my right hand shakes much; my mouth is hot and dry every morning; I have a lingering fever almost every day; my motion is weak and slow. However, blessed be God, I did not slack my labour; I can preach and write still." The next day he preached to a large congregation, and the day after that to a gathering of two thousand people. He was eighty-six years old at the time.



John Wesley

Wesley did not perform his extraordinary tasks of preaching for Christ in his own strength. He drew it from the Christ, who was his Saviour. Paul had similarly trudged his way throughout the Roman Empire, preaching and setting up congregations wherever he went. Then he revisited them, with the very real demands of travelling on foot being the easy part; easy compared to being beaten, flogged, stoned, imprisoned and shipwrecked. Prevented from journeying further, he wrote letters of encouragement and guidance to the churches he had established. Through it all he drew on the strength that Christ supplied.

You can draw from the same well that Paul and John Wesley drew from. You can call on the same Christ to strengthen you to overcome illness, to empower you to endure extreme difficulty, hardship or opposition. Ask Christ now for the strength to cope with a heavy work-load, or to have courage in the face of a daunting challenge or danger. Christ endured temptation and loneliness and even crucifixion.

"For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are - yet he did not sin." (Hebrews 4.15) He was like us, so that we might be like him! He supplies us with the resources we need to live under pressure, under any pressure.

Take heart! We have the same promise that was given to Joshua, "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go." (Joshua 1.9)

"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer." (Acts 2:42) There is a difference between learning and devotion. The early believers laid their views on the altar of God's Word. They allowed it to shape them. They were devoted.

*Dave Whitehead,
Senior Pastor, GraceNYC.org*

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted." (Matthew 5.4)

We usually associate mourning with death, but we can mourn over a number of things besides the loss of people who have died – disappointments, the losing of possessions, the way we have failed people. In all these situations, and many more besides, God will comfort and help those who mourn if they will respond to the message so clearly proclaimed in the great hymn, "What a Friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and grief to bear, what a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer!" For ourselves and for those whom we know let us pray that:

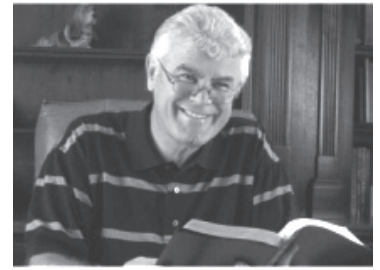


- Rather than carry our own grief and mourning, we will turn to the Lord and cry to Him for help and comfort
- Rather than turn to Him in anger we will come to Him in faith, laying everything at His feet
- God will use the most trying of situations to draw us to Himself
- We will come to know, to really know, Him who cares for our every need

Intercessors for New Zealand

"... live your time as temporary residents on earth ..."

(1 Peter 1.17 GWT)



Bob Gass

The fact that this world is not our ultimate home explains why we experience difficulty, disappointment and rejection. It also explains why some prayers remain unanswered, some promises seem unfulfilled, and some circumstances appear unfair. This life is not the end of the story! In order to keep us from becoming too attached to this world God allows us to feel a certain amount of discontent - longings that will never be fulfilled this side of heaven. We're not completely happy here because we're not supposed to be! Indeed, we won't be in heaven two seconds before we'll look around and say, 'Why did I place such importance on earthly things?' The truth is, at death you don't leave home, you go home!

Imagine being an ambassador in a hostile nation. You couldn't isolate yourself, quite the opposite; you would have to learn the language and adapt to new customs. To fulfil your mission you'd have to understand what's going on and know how to relate to those around you. But what if you fell in love with that country, preferring it to your own? Your loyalty and commitment would be compromised. Instead of representing your country you'd start acting like a traitor. The Bible says, "... We are Christ's ambassadors..." (2 Corinthians 5.20 NLT). So don't get too attached to what's around you, because it's temporary. "Those who use the things of the world should not become attached to them. For this world as we know it will soon pass away." (1 Cor. 7.31). So, use what is available, optimise it to fulfil God's purposes, but don't fall in love with it!



HOW TO ORDER

"Wholeness" is supported entirely by love offerings: mainly from individual readers and especially those who regularly send a "birthday present in reverse". Some churches and groups allocate a special offering to this Ministry.

Cheques in your currency are acceptable, but not Postal Notes. For donations to our KiwiBank account number 3890050310586-00 please include your name in the details space. For N.Z. receipts (tax deductible) a stamped and addressed envelope is appreciated. God bless you all and thank you.

We love to hear from you: testimonies, news, donations, and requests for prayer. Please address all such letters to our editorial office. We also hope that you will interest others in our paper.

FINANCE UPDATE
Join with us in praising God for his provision. While our recent expenses (in \$NZ) have been \$8,688, our income for the period has been \$9,583.
Thank you!

"WHOLENESS"

Editorial Office: Box 16099, Hamilton, New Zealand.

Ph. 07-843 4008, E Mail: wholeness_1@xtra.co.nz.

Web site: <http://www.wholenessinhim.net>

Director: Michael Ferri Editorial and general correspondence.

Donations & Accounts: Bob Sherson **Prayer:** Malia Ferri

WE PACK AND PROCESS

We dispatch as follows: Envelopes of 2 or 5; N.Z. packs of 10, 20, 30 etc. Overseas packs of 10 or multiples of 20. (Our most economic rate.)

N.B. For change of address or order please try to return your label.

The Editorial Director takes full responsibility for the contents of all published articles, but takes no responsibility for any other views or teachings which may be held by the various authors quoted.

We acknowledge typesetting by Image Graphics, Levin, printing by Beacon Print, Whakatane, N.Z.; distributors everywhere. Published by Michael Ferri, 6 Dallinger Street, Hamilton, in association with the Order of St. Luke, New Zealand.