

# GROW IN GRACE NEWSLETTER

Volume 44b, No. 34, September 3, 2019 / Southside Baptist Church / P.O. Box 1594 / 1028 South Water Avenue, Gallatin, TN 37066 (615) 452-5951 / **The Grow in Grace Newsletter is a WEEKLY Bible Study**, plus local church news notes— designed first and foremost for members and those attending services at Southside Church; and is sent forth with the desire to aid one and all, (including friends far and wide), in the experience of 2 Peter 3:18. **"But**

**grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our LORD and Savior JESUS CHRIST. To Him be glory both now and forever.**

## WHEN YOUR ROPE BREAKS— Part II

Edited from **WHEN YOUR ROPE BREAKS**, by Stephen Brown

**A QUICK REVIEW from last week:** Troubles, trials and tribulations— **(depending upon our response to these 'BROKEN ROPES'), we will either become *bitter or better!*** **REALITY— all is not right with the world.** There are inevitable storms in a fallen world. Sin is a part of a fallen world, as is the sting of death. However and regardless of all the bad news, God is working out His good plans and purposes according to all of His good pleasure. (Job 38-41)

**THUS:** It is a wonderful day when we drop our self-centeredness and rejoice that— **'God is everything!' Life is preeminently about the King of Kings.** It is not about His servants, His lands, or His subjects. It is about the King of Kings. PRAISE GOD! This means that in the midst of breaking ropes, **Almighty God reigns.** MOREOVER, God loves sinners; God loves His redeemed children. Thus: CHRISTIAN, your broken rope has purpose! CHRISTIAN: You will make it through. You are not alone. You are becoming like Christ. Your broken rope is redemptive. BEST OF ALL— you have a

fellow sufferer, JESUS CHRIST!

**HOW TO TIE A KNOT... OR** what do you do when your rope breaks: **ENGAGE IN—** **1.** Honest prayer. **2.** Honest fellowship. **3.** Be real with each other. **4.** Honest Bible study. **NOW, Part II... Continuing with more of 'What do you do when your rope breaks?'**

**5. Honest action: Doing what needs doing.** The Bible is not a passive book. Scripture challenges us **to run** the race, **to fight** the fight, **to wrestle** against powers of evil (I Cor. 9:24, 27; Eph. 6:12).

**Example:** When you place your hand on a hot stove, your hand doesn't hurt because you haven't prayed enough or been spiritual enough. Your hand hurts because it's on a hot stove. **Don't pray! Take your hand off the stove!** \*\*\*\* Amazingly, the remedy for a broken rope is often telling one's self Biblical truth and taking aggressive faith/obedience action. **Real Faith is acting upon the Word of God!**

**6. Honest Surrender— accepting what God gives you.** The book of Job gives a good illustration of positive surrender. (Job 1:20-21; Job 2:9-10) Whenever situations come into your life that you cannot change or avoid; and they are not consequences from personal choices— accept them as coming from the hand of your loving Father. In other words, surrender to God. **MOREOVER:** In spiritual warfare, fight the right battles! (Romans 12:14-21)

**7. Honest victory: Celebrating when you get things right.** One of the problems with honesty about your failure and sin is that it can become addictive. Because we are talking about broken

ropes, we need to talk about the realities of failure, sin, tragedy, and surrender. **However, that's NOT the whole story. God still answers prayer; He still mends broken ropes!** (Luke 22:31-32)

**Moreover, regardless of circumstances and regardless of people (she, him and/or them), none of whom you can control or change—** God is still on the throne and worthy of worship and worthy of praise! **Indeed, a master secret is this— Almighty God Inhabits the Praises of His People!**

**Miracles Happen When we PRAISE THE LORD!** (2 Chron. 20: 1-22; Acts 16:25-33)

### **BEWARE— BROKEN ROPES INVITE BITTERNESS.**

**Listen to Job's words.** Every rope that ever held him had broken, and NOT because he was in sin! The bitterness with which he spoke was, at times, cutting. (Job 9:14-18) **IS THIS YOU? —** You're caught with no place to go for recourse. You'd like to run away, to deny the reality you've known, but that simply isn't an acceptable alternative.

**The root of bitterness.** (Hebrews 12:15; Deut. 29:18) **Bitterness** - characterized by feelings of hatred, envy, resentment, cynicism, and severity - **begins when** one turns from casting all care upon God, **and it results in** a 'spiritual disease' that can also easily infect others.

**Someone has said that life is the only school where you take the test and then learn the lesson!**

That sounds good, and in some cases I suppose it's true, but it isn't the way God works with breaking ropes.

**Walking in trust** you can learn the lessons about broken ropes before you take the test. And if you can learn the lessons, you can avoid the bitterness which often follows the test.

## **FIVE Helpful Hedges to Protect from Bitterness**

**1. Prayer before panic!** Daniel is a great example of someone who was faithful to God both before and after a crisis. (Daniel 6:6-7; Daniel 6:10) The story shows how a man of God should face lions. Because Daniel had prayed regularly long before he faced the lions, Daniel did not become bitter. Too many Christians pray only in storms.

**2. Right Knowledge Upfront.** (Proverbs 18:15) Some wrongly believe that God is in the business of preventing tragedy; and so they are devastated when their ropes break. They become bitter. (I Peter 1:13; I Peter 4:12) God is God! He works by His agenda, not ours!

**He is carrying out His purposes, not necessarily ours.** His pleasure for Christians is Christ-likeness and the advance of the Gospel. **He may** bring and/or allow 'still waters and green pastures' **or He may** bring or allow all manner of suffering.

**The key to joy is in our being in tune with His passion— the furtherance of the gospel! (Phil. 1:12)** ALSO, CONSIDER THIS: Most people react to breaking ropes in the same way they react to ropes that don't break.

**In other words,** if you are faithful, loving, trusting and obedient when things are going right in your life, you will probably be faithful, loving, trusting and obedient when things are going

wrong.

### **3. Thanks before the tragedy.** (Ephesians 5:18-20)

Understanding that everything comes from God and/or at least comes with His permission (and, thus, praising Him and THANKING Him) is an effective way to prevent bitterness.

***An attitude of praise to God for who He is and THANKSGIVING to God for what He brings or allows will grant you power under pressure! But power without pressure is never promised by God.***

MOREOVER, GOD IS GOD! He is sovereign. He rules and overrules over all. **He has the freedom to do as He pleases, when He pleases and with whom He pleases.** Moreover, because GOD IS GOOD, He will always do right! SO, LET US GIVE THANKS!

Broken ropes on your plate may be there, in part, because of the sins of others, or because of your sin **or it may all be a total mystery to you**— regardless God rules and overrules. He could have controlled things differently, had He so desired. **He owes us no explanation and if He gave one— we still might not understand!**

But with thanksgiving let us rest in the fact that, ***“... infinite wisdom and unchanging love conspired with Almighty power to cause and/or allow something that’s ultimately for our good and His glory!”*** (See Don Baker, *Thank You Therapy*, p. 43)

### **4. Recognizing the effects of bitterness.** Many of us have our emotional “hall of injustice,” and we like to visit it often. We like to polish the statues of those who have hurt us. We might not be

polished singers, but we know all the verses to many ‘SOMEBODY DONE BE WRONG’ songs!

Frankly, many of us need to confess **the tendency toward bitterness**. Moreover, we must confess bitterness as sin. (I John 1:9; Ephesians 4:31-32) To be perfectly honest, you can’t turn bitterness on and off like a faucet. **Bitterness is sometimes hard to destroy.**

**Why? Because we feel justified.** Someone hurt us and we are determined to make them pay! Reality is that they can never pay enough!

**The only solution is to forgive in the same manner as God has forgiven us for Christ’s sake!** (Ephesians 4:31-32) Another critical reason to heed these verses is the reality that there **is a DEMONIC CONNECTION to bitterness!** (James 3:13-17)

**5. Waiting for the light.** CHRISTIAN: If God is sovereign (and He is) and if He loves you (and He does) and if you have done everything you can (and sometimes you have), then don’t do anything more. **Simply be still. Just continue to ‘wait upon the LORD!’** (Isaiah 40:28-31)

**“Wait** at His door in prayer!

**Wait** at His feet in humility!

**Wait** at His table with service!

**Wait** at His window with expectancy!”

\*\*\*\* **SHARE** the Preaching of the Word of God!

<http://www.southsidegallatin.org/>

*Listen\_to\_other\_sermons\_on\_sermonaudio/*

## **SOUTHSIDE NEWS NOTES:**

**TUESDAYS:** Come and sing every Tuesday night at Gallatin Health Care Nursing Home. Meet at the front door at **5:15PM**.

**WEDNESDAYS:** → **6:30pm— Wednesday CHURCH PRAYER SERVICE**

→ Enter via **IRON STEPS**, side door.

**WEDNESDAYS:** → **6:30pm— Youth** Activities and Bible Study— enter, side double doors.

**WEDNESDAYS:** → **6:30pm— Young Family Prayer Time!** THIS IS a time of Bible study and prayer geared toward **families with children in the nursery and pre-K class**. Enter at double doors, under AWNING.

## **\*\*\* LADIES BIBLE STUDY:**

**NEXT MEETING WILL BE ON SEPTEMBER 17, 2019 @ 11:00am; Continuing in LUKE.** ENTER at the back of the church building, [*DOUBLE Doors, under AWNING, open at 10:30am... re-locked at 11:10am*]

### \*\*\* MEN's Fellowship/Bible Study:

EVERY SATURDAY @ **8:00am**: (**STUDY: THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN!**) ENTER AT THE back of Church building... DOUBLE DOORS, under the drive-thru awning. [**DOORS OPEN FOR FELLOWSHIP, Juice, coffee, Hardee's biscuits, & Donuts at 7:30am!**]

## SUNDAY SERVICES, SEPTEMBER 8, 15, 22, 29

9:30am— Sunday School Classes for All Ages

10:45am— Sunday Morning Worship Service

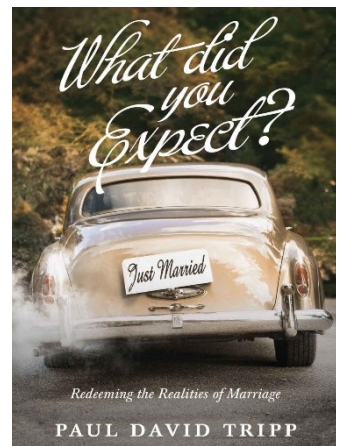
### SPECIAL EVENTS ON THE FOLLOWING SUNDAYS:

\*\* September 8 — **FAITHFUL MEN, 5:30PM... (1689 Confession of Faith)**

\*\*\* September 15 — **LORD'S SUPPER** at the close of the Morning Worship Service

**HOME GROUPS... some at 5pm**

\*\*\*\* **SEPTEMBER 22 — 6:00pm - 7:00pm, Church-wide EQUIPPING DISCIPLES by developing Christ-honoring Marriages: Paul David Tripp's 'WHAT DID YOU EXPECT? (Redeeming the Realities of Marriage)**





**\*\*\*\*\* September 29 — SPECIAL EVENT — AN EVENING OF SCRIPTURE and PRAISE @ 6PM... in the Church auditorium. [Let Bradley and/or Adam know... if you would like to sing... or share a Scripture!**

**THEME: "I LOVE YOU, LORD... BECAUSE YOU FIRST LOVED ME!"**